ADVISOR UPDATE

NOVEMBER 2026

ARIZONA DECA

Issue 004 November

COMPETITION SEASON IS HERE!!!

Once again, it is that time of year where we kick off competition season. I know how much our students look forward to competing each year, and I want to take this opportunity right at the start to say that we truly couldn't make these district and state conferences successful without the help of you all. Your professionalism and willingness to help is a huge reason why things go as smoothly as they can. So, thank you advisors, for all of your work you put in to prepare your students for competition, and for your time while working at the conferences.

I will provide reminders and more information about changes to this year's competitive event structure, and while these changes mostly affect SCDC, I think it's important to send this information out again now so we can be as fully prepared as possible. If any of you have any questions regarding these changes, or would like more clarification, please don't hesitate to reach out. Best of luck to all of your students!

DISTRICT CAREER DEVELOPMENT CONFERENCES

DISTRICT 1 - DEC. 10, 2026 @ ASU WEST VALLEY CAMPUS (GLENDALE, AZ)
DISTRICT 2 - DEC. 1, 2026 @ OTTAWA UNIVERSITY (SURPRISE, AZ)
DISTRICT 3 - JAN. 6, 2027 @ THE VENUE EVENT & CONFERENCE CENTER (TUCSON, AZ)
DISTRICT 4 - DEC. 8, 2026 @ ASU POLYTECHNIC CAMPUS (MESA, AZ)
DISTRICT 5 - DEC. 9, 2026 @ ASU POLYTECHNIC CAMPUS (MESA, AZ)
DISTRICT 6 - DEC. 4, 2026 @ OTTAWA UNIVERSITY (SURPRISE, AZ)
DISTRICT 7 - DEC. 11, 2026 @ ASU WEST VALLEY CAMPUS (GLENDALE, AZ)

Important DEADLINES:

NOV 20	District Conference Registration DUE
Nov 20	District Conference Last Day of Testing

Important DATES:

	District Conference Dates
FEB 25–27	State Career Development Conference

NEXT BIG THING ODECA

NEED A QUOTE??

CLICK HERE TO USE THE NEW QUOTE GENERATOR TO AUTOMATICALLY SEND YOURSELF A QUOTE FOR CONFERENCES AND MEMBERSHIP

ARIZONA DECA

26-27 CHANGES TO COMPETITION

CHANGES THAT AFFECT DISTRICT CONFERENCES

1. **Principles Events** - As always, principles events are limited to first year DECA members. However, this year, it is also limited to only first year members who are a freshman or sophomore. I will look at the impact of this change at ICDC in April to see how many of each grade level compete in order to determine if we should keep this change or revert back to any grade level first year member.

2. **District Test Medals** - For district conferences, a cut score of 75 will be the benchmark for being awarded a test medal.

CHANGES THAT AFFECT SCDC

1. **One Competitive Event -** Students may only be registered for and compete in one (1) event.
2. **On-site Testing** - Testing for SCDC will occur at Arizona Grand Resort & Spa on Thursday, February 25th.
3. **Three General Sessions** - We will be moving from two general sessions (Opening & Closing) to three Opening, Achievement Awards, and Grand Awards sessions to closely mirror the format for ICDC
4. **Medals**
   a. Testing Medals - Top 10% of testers for each exam will receive a test medal.
   b. Roleplay/Presentation Medals - Awarded to the top 2 roleplays/presentations from each section
   c. Finalist Medals - All students who make finals will receive a Finalist Medal.

CHANGES THAT AFFECT SCDC cont.

5. **SBE Competition Events** - Starting this year, we will now offer SBE as a competitive event at SCDC. Two students per team, 15 minute presentation similar to prepared event. No written submission required.
   a. Only chapters who apply for the SBE Gold Certification/Re-Certification will be allowed to compete in the SBE competitive events (I will receive this list from DECA).
   b. This event **DOES** count as your student's one competitive event. The reason for this is that your chapter will have submitted to earn certification, and the results of these events DO NOT effect your chapter's allocation for earning that certification. It is essentially a guaranteed spot at ICDC for those students.
   c. In the event your chapter does NOT receive the gold certification (we will know approximately two weeks before SCDC) we will move your students into a roleplay event of their choosing.
6. Friday Night DECA Activities - This isn't competition related, but our plan for Friday Night is to utilize the grass area next to Canyon Ballroom and host yard games, have music, food trucks available, and introduce pin trading! It is optional to participate in pin trading, but we would love for your chapter to create a chapter pin for SCDC and have all our students experience the fun of trading pins!

NEXT BIG THING ODECA

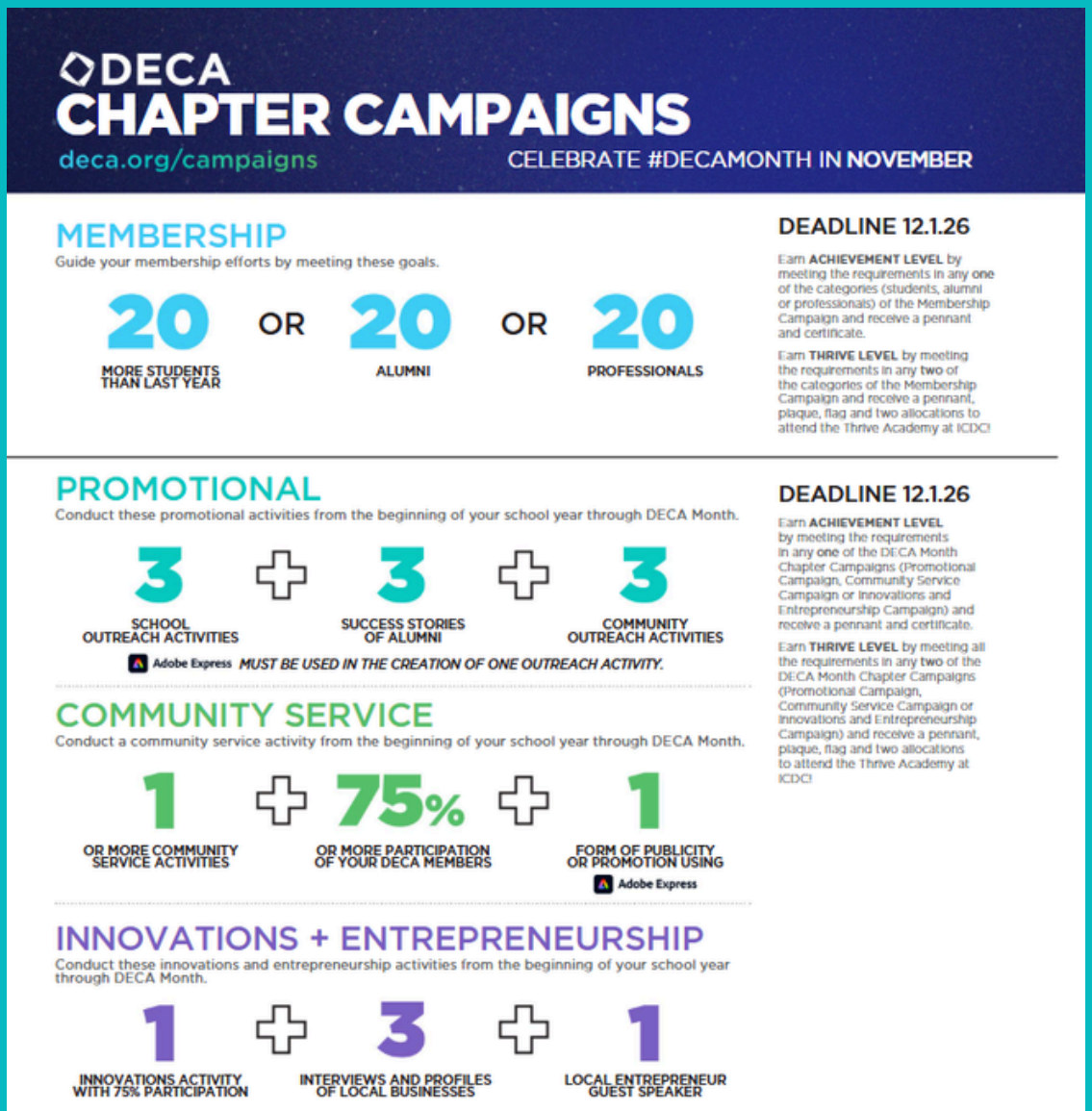
DECA CHAPTER & MEMBERSHIP AWARDS

OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUR CHAPTER TO EARN ICDC ALLOCATIONS

With November being DECA Month, I wanted to take some time to highlight the great opportunities that every chapter has to earn allocations at ICDC. Each year, DECA offers Chapter Campaigns that your chapter can complete during the Fall semester.

I have provided a screenshot below from the DECA Chapter Campaigns guidebook to help explain how these work. I'm sure quite a bit of you already know about these, but to put it into perspective, we have right around 100 active chapters, and 32 chapters earned Thrive Level for Chapter Campaigns, and only 12 chapters earned Thrive Level for Membership Campaign!

For Membership, meeting any two of the three requirements (or 20+ students, 10 alumni AND 10 professional members) will earn your chapter Thrive Level. For Chapter Campaigns, completing two of the three campaigns (Promotional, Community Service, or Innovations) will earn your chapter Thrive level. **That means your chapter has the potential to earn four allocations for your students to attend Thrive Academy at ICDC!** Visit deca.org/campaigns for more detailed information.



NEXT BIG THING ◇DECA

DECA CHAPTER & MEMBER OF THE MONTH

OCTOBER 2026 WINNERS



Perry High School



Valeria Chavez
Maryvale High School

Congratulations to our October 2026 Chapter and Member of the month! We are proud to recognize all of your hard work and accomplishments and are grateful for all you do!

Remember, you can nominate a chapter and/or member for our monthly recognition by using the links below or on our website. Remember, the nominated member doesn't have to be from your own chapter!

If you happen to come across a link for the 25-26 member/chapter of the month links on our website, please let me know which page you found that on so I can appropriately update the link.

CHAPTER OF THE MONTH

MEMBER OF THE MONTH

2026–2027 CHAPTER DISTRICT ASSIGNMENTS

DISTRICT 1

BARRY GOLDWATER HIGH SCHOOL
BOULDER CREEK HIGH SCHOOL
CHAPARRAL HIGH SCHOOL
DEER VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL
DESERT MOUNTAIN HIGH SCHOOL
HORIZON HIGH SCHOOL
MOUNTAIN RIDGE HIGH SCHOOL
NOTRE DAME PREPARATORY
PARADISE VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL
PINNACLE HIGH SCHOOL
SANDRA DAY O'CONNOR HIGH SCHOOL

DISTRICT 2

ALHAMBRA HIGH SCHOOL
ALA VISTANCIA
BETTY H FAIRFAX HIGH SCHOOL
CACTUS HIGH SCHOOL
CACTUS CANYON HIGH SCHOOL
CAMELBACK HIGH SCHOOL
CENTENNIAL HIGH SCHOOL
CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL
IRONWOOD HIGH SCHOOL
LIBERTY HIGH SCHOOL
MARYVALE HIGH SCHOOL
METRO TECH HIGH SCHOOL
NORTH HIGH SCHOOL
PEORIA FLEX ACADEMY
PEORIA HIGH SCHOOL
RAYMOND S KELLIS HIGH SCHOOL
SOUTH MOUNTAIN HIGH SCHOOL
SUNRISE MOUNTAIN HIGH SCHOOL
TREVOR G BROWNE HIGH SCHOOL

DISTRICT 3

ALA SIERRA VISTA
BUENA HIGH SCHOOL
CASA GRANDE UNION HIGH SCHOOL
CATALINA FOOTHILLS HIGH SCHOOL
DESERT VIEW HIGH SCHOOL
DOUGLAS HIGH SCHOOL
MOUNTAIN VIEW HIGH SCHOOL - MARANA
PUEBLO HIGH SCHOOL
STAR ACADEMIC HIGH SCHOOL
TUCSON HIGH MAGNET SCHOOL
VISTA GRANDE HIGH SCHOOL
WALDEN GROVE HIGH SCHOOL

DISTRICT 4

ALA GILBERT NORTH
ALA IRONWOOD
ALA MESA NORTH
ALA VIRTUAL ACADEMY
CANYON VALLEY SCHOOL
CRISMON HIGH SCHOOL
DESERT RIDGE HIGH SCHOOL
DESERT SUNRISE HIGH SCHOOL
DOBSON HIGH SCHOOL
EASTMARK HIGH SCHOOL
GILBERT HIGH SCHOOL
HIGHLAND HIGH SCHOOL
HIGLEY HIGH SCHOOL
HOLBROOK HIGH SCHOOL
MARICOPA HIGH SCHOOL
MESA HIGH SCHOOL
MONUMENT VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL
MOUNTAIN VIEW HIGH SCHOOL - MESA
PAYSON HIGH SCHOOL
QUEEN CREEK HIGH SCHOOL
RED MOUNTAIN HIGH SCHOOL
WESTWOOD HIGH SCHOOL
WILLIAMS FIELD HIGH SCHOOL
WINDOW ROCK HIGH SCHOOL



DISTRICT 5

ARIZONA COLLEGE PREPARATORY
BASHA HIGH SCHOOL
CASTEEL HIGH SCHOOL
CHANDLER HIGH SCHOOL
DESERT VISTA HIGH SCHOOL
HAMILTON HIGH SCHOOL
MARCOS DE NIZA HIGH SCHOOL
MCCLINTOCK HIGH SCHOOL
PERRY HIGH SCHOOL
TEMPE HIGH SCHOOL

DISTRICT 6

AGUA FRIA HIGH SCHOOL
ALA WEST FOOTHILLS
CANYON VIEW HIGH SCHOOL
DESERT EDGE HIGH SCHOOL
DYSART HIGH SCHOOL
GOODYEAR HIGH SCHOOL
HARVEST PREPARATORY ACADEMY
LAKE HAVASU HIGH SCHOOL
MILLENNIUM HIGH SCHOOL
MOUNTAINSIDE HIGH SCHOOL
SHADOW RIDGE HIGH SCHOOL
VALLEY VISTA HIGH SCHOOL
VERRADO HIGH SCHOOL
WILLOW CANYON HIGH SCHOOL

DISTRICT 7

APOLLO HIGH SCHOOL
COPPER CANYON HIGH SCHOOL
GLENDALE HIGH SCHOOL
GREENWAY HIGH SCHOOL
INDEPENDENCE HIGH SCHOOL
MOON VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL
SUNNYSLOPE HIGH SCHOOL
THUNDERBIRD HIGH SCHOOL
TOLLESON UNION HIGH SCHOOL
WASHINGTON HIGH SCHOOL
WEST POINT HIGH SCHOOL

PLEASE SEE THE DISTRICT CONFERENCE FLYER ON THE NEXT PAGE WITH ALL CONFERENCE DATES AND VENUES

DISTRICT CAREER DEVELOPMENT CONFERENCES

DISTRICT 1 - December 10 @ ASU West Valley Campus - Glendale, AZ

DISTRICT 2 - December 1 @ Ottawa University - Surprise, AZ

DISTRICT 3 - January 6 @ The Venue Event & Conference Center - Tucson, AZ

DISTRICT 4 - December 8 @ ASU Polytechnic Campus - Mesa, AZ

DISTRICT 5 - December 9 @ ASU Polytechnic Campus - Mesa, AZ

DISTRICT 6 - December 4 @ Ottawa University - Surprise, AZ

DISTRICT 7 - December 11 @ ASU West Valley Campus - Glendale, AZ

REGISTRATION DUE
November 20th

NO cancellations, refunds or return of funds will be granted after registration closes

CONFERENCE TENTATIVE SCHEDULE
*Agenda subject to change
DRESS CODE: DECA OFFICIAL DRESS
9:00 AM - 10:00 AM Registration
10:00 AM - 10:15 AM Opening Session
10:30 AM - 3:00 PM Competitive Events
11:45 AM - 3:45 PM Workshops
4:00 PM - CLOSING AWARDS SESSION

$40 PER STUDENT
$20 PER CHAPERONE
$0 FOR ADVISORS
Includes:
Conference Materials
& Lunch

NEXT BIG THING DECA

Testing Window: November 2 -20

****All students must be registered DECA Inc. members before you can register them for the conference**

Registration Link on Arizona DECA website
All information is subject to change

QUESTIONS? Dan.Poffinbarger@azed.gov or visit azdeca.org

ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Arizona DECA District Career Development Conferences

Competitive Event List

AZ DECA 2026–2027 DISTRICT CONFERENCES

INDIVIDUAL SERIES

Abb.	Description	PREP TIME	PRESENT TIME
ACT	Accounting Applications	10 MINUTES	10 MINUTES
AAM	Apparel and Accessories Marketing		
ASM	Automotive Services Marketing		
BFS	Business Finance		
BSM	Business Services Marketing		
ENT	Entrepreneurship Series		
FMS	Food Marketing		
HLM	Hotel and Lodging Management		
HRM	Human Resources Management		
MCS	Marketing Communications		
QSRM	Quick Serve Restaurant Management		
RFSM	Restaurant and Food Service Management		
RMS	Retail Merchandising		
SEM	Sports and Entertainment Marketing Series		

PERSONAL FINANCIAL LITERACY

Abb.	Description	PREP TIME	PRESENT TIME
PFL	Personal Financial Literacy	10 MINUTES	10 MINUTES

PRINCIPLES EVENTS

Abb.	Description	PREP TIME	PRESENT TIME
PBM	Principles of Business Management and Administration	10 MINUTES	10 MINUTES
PEN	Principles of Entrepreneurship		
PFN	Principles of Finance		
PHT	Principles of Hospitality and Tourism		
PMK	Principles of Marketing		

TEAM DECISION MAKING

2 members MAX per team

Abb.	Description	PREP TIME	PRESENT TIME
BLTDM	Business Law and Ethics	30 MINUTES	15 MINUTES
BTDM	Buying and Merchandising		
ETDM	Entrepreneurship TDM		
FTDM	Financial Services		
HTDM	Hospitality Services		
MTDM	Marketing Management		
STDM	Sports and Entertainment Marketing TDM		
TTDM	Travel and Tourism		