

DSA National Convention

Convention Delegates

What is a Convention Delegate?

A Convention Delegate is a DSA member in good standing who is elected by their chapter (or the at-large members of DSA) to represent their chapter or at-large members in the highest decision-making body in DSA, the National Convention.

What does a Convention Delegate do?

Before:

Delegates work with chapter leaders to create opportunities for chapter members to discuss collectively decisions that will be made. Delegates are responsible for having an understanding of how chapter members think about the future of DSA and what concerns or interests they may have. One delegate from each chapter should be elected or appointed the Delegation Chair to take the lead on ensuring their delegates are registered and ready for Convention (directions for Delegation Chairs will be provided soon).

Delegates are also responsible for funding their trip to the convention. Chapters should help fundraise for the trip if needed, and chapter leaders and delegates should pay attention to info for scholarships from staff and Delegation Chairs. Please note that national scholarships are limited and will only cover a portion of expenses.

Delegates can find updates, info, and links to important forms at [convention 2023.dsusa.org](https://convention2023.dsusa.org).

During:

All Delegates attending the Convention are free to participate in every part of the proceedings. Not only are they expected to vote on proposals and procedural decisions, they are encouraged to participate in the debate and discussion that happens before votes. Delegates should pay attention during these proceedings closely. Delegates will also have the opportunity to build relationships with DSA members from other chapters and national committees.

Delegates should remember that the purpose of debate is to help refine analysis of the decisions at hand, solve problems collectively, and build unity for action after Convention. The debate might change their mind. Delegates should come with an open mind and be ready to make decisions at the Convention rather than before.

After:

Delegates are the best source of information for their chapter on what happened at the Convention. All Delegates should plan ahead of time to report back on decisions made at the convention to their chapters.

What is an Alternate?

Every chapter will also elect at least one Alternate. Alternates also attend the Convention and are responsible for filling in as Delegates if a Delegate needs to take a break or can't make part of the proceedings.