



## STATE OFFICER CANDIDATE INFORMATION

The Missouri DECA State Officer Program provides tremendous opportunities for any freshman, sophomore, or junior to gain new leadership skills, improve their planning and organization skills, become stronger speakers, demonstrate initiative, and much more. It is a unique and valuable experience that we are excited to offer. This role requires your year-round commitment and dedication to ensure that we carry out a challenging and successful program of work for our members.

It takes a special individual to serve as an officer. Candidates must be organized, professional, eager to play their role and lead when called upon, strong communicators, listen to understand, and have initiative and high moral and ethical standards. Candidates must be ready to make Missouri DECA a top priority and be willing to dedicate 5 to 10 hours a week dedicated to their role's initiatives and responsibilities.

Application for 2026-27:

- Submit the Application located at this [link](#) by February 27th, 2026.
  - **If you experience any issues accessing the application through the link above, please first try opening it in a browser that is not connected to a school domain. If the issue persists, contact Caroline Daccache, Missouri DECA Leadership Director, via email [caroline@missourideca.org](mailto:caroline@missourideca.org) for assistance.**
  - Upload a portrait/vertical headshot in .jpeg format (DECA Blazer required)
  - Upload an unofficial transcript
    - Candidates must have at least a 2.75 cumulative GPA on a 4.0 scale
    - *If your Social Security Number is printed on this, please either cross it out with a dark marker or cover it up with a label/sticker prior to scanning.*
- Submit two letters of recommendation from the following:
  - An administrator or a teacher (other than your advisor)
  - A community member or an employer
- Submit an essay describing your intent to run for Missouri DECA State Office
  - PROMPT: Why do you want to serve as a Missouri DECA State Officer?
  - Include personal characteristics, experiences, and achievements that qualify you for a place on the team. Include goals and plans you have for Missouri DECA.
  - (12 point font, Times New Roman, 500 word limit)

- Review, initial and submit [Signature Form](#) with a parent/guardian, advisor, and administrator signature
- Review and submit [Internet Permission Form](#) with parent/guardian's signature

A confirmation email will be sent after applications close with next steps for testing.

*Note: Each school is only allowed to run two candidates.*

## STATE OFFICER ELECTION INFORMATION

Please review the following information to understand how the election process is structured, required dates of events, campaign procedures, and duties of the officers for the 2026-2027 State Action Team. All officer candidates are required to wear a **DECA blazer** for all sessions. Any candidate not wearing a DECA blazer for these events will not be allowed to participate in the election process.

ELECTION ELEMENT	DESCRIPTION	TIME
<b>BEFORE STATE CAREER DEVELOPMENT CONFERENCE</b>		
<b>Stage 1:</b> <i>Application</i>	All information regarding the application process can be found on page 1 of this document.	<u><b>MUST BE RECEIVED BY:</b></u> <b>February 27th, 2025 by midnight</b>
<b>Stage 2:</b> <i>Written Test</i>	The test will evaluate the candidate's knowledge of Missouri DECA and DECA Inc. Candidates must achieve a minimum score to move forward and will have 60 minutes to complete. Candidates will test live on Zoom, proctored by BMIT Staff.  <b>Those who fail to pass the minimum will <u>not</u> move on to Stage 3.</b>	Prior to Conference via Zoom  March 4th, 2026 8am or 3pm
<b>AT STATE CAREER DEVELOPMENT CONFERENCE</b>		
<b>Stage 3:</b> <i>Meet the Candidates</i>	Candidates will receive direction and set up their campaign booths. <i>Please reference the campaign procedures for guidelines.</i>  Candidates will network with members and voting delegates prior to the opening session.	Meeting: Sunday, 2:00pm  Set-Up: Sunday, 2:00 pm  Campaigning: Sunday, TBA  *Times are subjected to change depending on SCDC program
<b>Stage 4:</b> <i>Screening and Nominating Committee Interview</i>	Interviewers will ask the candidates to answer questions about leadership characteristics and DECA experience. Interview sessions will be 15 minutes.	Monday, 7-8:30AM *Interview time is subjected to change depending on SCDC program
<b>Stage 5:</b>	The Top 12 candidates will be announced by noon on the day of the On-Stage Finalist Q&A and will be posted outside HQ along with the	Monday, 8:30pm-9:45pm *Time is subjected to

<p><i>On-Stage Finalist Q&amp;A</i></p>	<p>question they will be prompted with in front of the Missouri DECA Assembly; this information will also be shared in the Band channel.</p> <p>Top 12 candidates will be prompted to answer a question provided by the leadership team before the entire MO DECA assembly in no more than 1 minute.</p> <p>No notes or assistance of any kind will be permitted on stage; finalists must have nothing with them and should leave their phones and any personal items with their advisor prior to going on stage.</p>	<p>change depending on SCDC program</p>
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Determination of team selection and role placement: Each candidate's test score, interview score, and total votes from the Finalist Q&A will be ranked. These rankings will be combined to determine a cumulative rank, and the six candidates with the lowest cumulative rank will be selected for the State Action Team. In the event of a tie, the candidate receiving the highest total number of votes will be declared the winner. Roles will be determined by combination of lowest rank and expressed preference from the candidate. Team selection and role placement will be announced on Tuesday at the Grand Award Session.

## STATE OFFICER REQUIRED TRAVEL DATES

The following dates are required unless otherwise noted as optional. Failure to attend without prior approval from the State Advisors will result in termination of office.

SAT Training & \*Emerging Leaders Summit | July 9-13, 2026 | Kansas City, MO & Phoenix, AZ

Fall Leadership Conference | October 25-26, 2026 | Tan-Tar-A, MO

District Vice President Training | November 4, 2026 | Jefferson City, MO

\*\*Ultimate DECA Power Trip | November 20-22, 2026 | Louisville, KY

SCDC Planning Meeting | January 9, 2027 | Kansas City, MO

District Competitive Events Conference | Date & Location determined by District

Legislative Day (*VP of Advocacy required, other SAT encouraged*) | Date TBD | Jefferson City, MO

State Career Development Conference | February 28-March 2, 2027 | Kansas City, MO

\*\*International Career Development Conference | April 17- 20, 2027 | Anaheim, CA

***\*MO DECA will pay registration, lodging, and travel expenses for the Emerging Leader Summit***

***\*\*State Action Team members are encouraged to attend Power Trip and ICDC; however, MO DECA does not pay any expenses related to these conferences.***

## CAMPAIGN PROCEDURES

The goal of the campaign is to allow candidates the opportunity to discuss their platform and qualifications with the voting delegates. Campaigning should focus on leadership strengths and ability to serve Missouri DECA, not a single office role, as you will be running for a place on the State Action Team.

The following rules and guidelines apply to campaigning procedures and set up before testing:

- Campaign materials may only be distributed during the “Meet the Candidates” session. Failure to adhere to this policy will result in disqualification. (Campaign materials may only be handed out at the candidates table i.e. not under chairs or passed out in the common areas.)
- Candidates may only distribute pamphlets, brochures, and/or business cards. **Items of monetary value, food or drink MAY NOT be distributed.**
- Campaign space is assigned to each candidate by the State Office and cannot be changed.
- Candidates are responsible for removing all materials from the exhibit area following the “Meet the Candidates” session.
- For visual display, candidates will be allocated a 6’ x 2’ space.
- Balloons filled with helium are not permitted.
- Candidates may not use the walls, nor extra chairs. All campaign materials should be on their table.
- Laptops or tablets may be used. No electrical outlets or cords will be provided for electronic devices.
- No campaigning at the entrance to the campaigning area. All campaigning must remain at the campaign booth where the candidate and helpers give out materials.
- No campaign activity that could result in harm to others is allowed (i.e. jumping to hit a target, climbing on others, throwing objects, etc.).
- Only the candidate and (1) student helper (not the entire chapter) may remain in the booth at any given time.
- Campaign themes must be approved by the Missouri DECA Leadership Team and State Advisor after passing the written test.
  - All campaign themes and social media campaign account handle(s) must be submitted for approval by March 13 at 5:00 PM. Failure to meet this deadline will result in the candidate being ineligible to campaign on social media.
- All current DVP/SAT officers must remain impartial
- **Social Media Guidelines:**
  - Candidates may not create a social media campaign account nor announce their run for candidacy until after the Candidate has passed their test and received approval from the Leadership Director of their social media campaign username and campaign theme.
  - All campaign accounts must be brand-new accounts created specifically for the current election cycle. Candidates must submit their campaign account handle(s) to caroline@missourideca.org for approval before becoming active or posting any content.
    - Can not collaborate or repost from current or previous campaign or personal DECA accounts.
  - Candidates may not use “MO\_DECA”, “MODECA\_”, “MODECA”, or any other variation of “MO DECA” or “Missouri DECA” in their campaign usernames as this causes confusion with active SAT members.
  - Candidates may NOT reactivate a previous campaign or SAT/DVP account with previous activities.
  - Candidates may not endorse or “shout-out” themselves from a DVP/SAT account if currently an elected MO DECA Officer.
  - Candidates must delete their campaign accounts **immediately** after SCDC. (Will receive their official MO DECA accounts at Summer Training as current SAT uses them throughout ICDC)
  - Any discovery of account creation OR reactivation, previous activity (ie. posting stories, images, campaign materials, DECA experiences prior to approved campaign, etc.) will result in immediate disqualification of candidacy.
  - Candidates must receive approval to use social media accounts for campaign from Missouri DECA Leadership Team before any content is shared/posted.
  - Personal social media accounts may not be used for campaigning, as they contain an existing

follower base.

## DUTIES OF MISSOURI DECA STATE OFFICER

All Missouri DECA State Officers will assume a large leadership role at the State Career Development Conference. The Leadership team will provide wardrobe items paid for by Missouri DECA consisting of 3 outfits (pants, shirts, dresses (if applicable), ties, jewelry set) for officers to wear at SCDC with a DECA blazer they own.

All Missouri DECA State Officers are required to complete a Program of Activities (POA) according to guidelines stated in the Program of Activities section of the State Officer Handbook. POAs are submitted monthly by the deadlines provided at SAT Training. POAs and documentation of activities are combined into a three-ring binder submitted at SCDC to be scored by SAT Advisors. State Action Team members must score a 70% or higher to attend ICDC as a State Action Team representative.

Upon confirmation of planned ICDC attendance, SAT assumes all roles and responsibilities associated with being a Missouri Association leadership delegate. SAT will be required to attend all voting delegate sessions. Failure to adhere to roles and responsibilities can result in, but is not limited to, disciplinary action of the SAT and chapter represented.

### President

- Oversees all activities conducted by the State Action Team and works closely with the State Advisor, State Officer Advisors, and the State Action Team to ensure that all undertakings are successful.
- Acts as the primary public relations agent and makes as many public appearances as possible on behalf of Missouri DECA.
- Assists other SAT members in achieving their initiatives and provides accountability. **\*The President is required to submit minutes from the two monthly SAT meetings and complete Status Report forms for each of the Vice Presidents on the SAT.**
- Responsible for leading the Missouri DECA delegation in all DECA conference meetings, including ICDC.
- Responsible for maintaining communication among other state associations throughout the term. **This includes monthly [OneDECA](#) calls hosted by DECA Inc.'s International Officer Team.**

### Vice President of Advocacy

- Supervises the development, implementation, and evaluation of the advocacy goal of the State Action Team's Program of Activities and assists the District Vice Presidents in carrying out the goal.
- Serves as a coordinator for special projects adopted by the State Action Team with legislative outreach.
- Attends ACTE Legislative Day to inform members of Missouri General Assembly about DECA. Be sure you check with your advisor about your DECA District CDC to see if it conflicts BEFORE you apply for this office.
- Hosts the Legislative Breakfast in the Capitol building to advocate for Missouri DECA.
- Grow Missouri DECA State Advisory Board during term.
- Maintains contact with members of Missouri DECA's Congressional Advisory Board with updates and news about Missouri DECA as provided by the Vice President of Communication

### Vice President of Business Partnerships

- Conducts the planning, organization, and implementation of statewide initiatives to develop business partnerships with Missouri DECA.
- Secures colleges and businesses for FLC and SCDC exhibit sponsors.
- Maintains contact with business partnerships on updates and news about Missouri DECA as provided by the Vice President of Communication.

**Vice President of Communication**

- Conducts the planning, organization, and implementation of statewide publicity in order to convey information from chapters, districts, and the business community.
- Continually promotes Missouri DECA by compiling a record of all Missouri DECA activities including pictures. Information and pictures for this record will be supplied by all members of the State Action Team.
- Prepares and collects news and feature stories for use on the Missouri DECA social media sites, website, and other DECA publications.
- Leads the state officer team in utilizing the Missouri DECA Facebook page, LinkedIn, Instagram and Twitter Accounts to promote and publicize DECA programs, events, conferences, and activities.

**Vice President of Community Service**

- Supervises the development, implementation, and evaluation of the community service goal of the State Action Team's Program of Activities and assists the District Vice Presidents in carrying out the goal.
- Works with District Vice-Presidents and individual chapters to carry-out successful community service projects.
- Maintains contact with the Muscular Dystrophy Association State Representative, as possible.
- Plans a statewide community service event to be conducted in conjunction with the State Career Development Conference.

**Vice President of Membership**

- Conducts the planning, organization, and implementation of statewide membership growth initiatives for professional and alumni membership.
- Create and implement strategies to increase awareness and membership across the State.
- Serves as a coordinator for special projects adopted by the State Action Team with membership engagement.
- Supervises the development, implementation, and evaluation of the Membership Development goal of the State Action Team's Program of Activities and assists the District Vice Presidents in carrying out the goal.

*Revised 1/26/2026*