



State Leadership Conference / February 26-28, 2027

Save the Date!

SLC provides an unmatched platform for your students to shine across competitive events in marketing, finance, hospitality, and management, while offering exciting experiential learning opportunities like the Entrepreneurship Pitch Lab, Team Tri's Leadership Academies, and interactive challenges like The Quest and Leadership Labyrinth!



It's never too early to start planning for the **State Leadership Conference (SLC)**! Mark your calendars and get ready for an inspiring and action-packed event.

SLC Preview & Hotel Information - See below

Event Details:

- **Cost:** \$140
- **Dates:** February 26–28, 2027
- **Location:** Virginia Beach Convention Center

For more information, go to: <https://www.vadeca.org/slc>

SLC General Event Information

Who Should Attend SLC?

- Students who placed at their District Leadership Conference
- Students competing in Team Decision Making or DECA's Prepared Events
- SBE Teams
- Future Chapter Leaders
- Student Entrepreneurs currently launching or running their own business

- State Officer Candidates
- Students interested in being a conference intern

Competitive Events

- The SLC guidebook includes a breakdown of allocations for competitive events at SLC. Please stick to these allocations.
- SBE Teams will compete at the State Leadership Conference (SLC). Certified chapters may submit one team per SBE Certification submitted to DECA in January. These teams do not advance to compete at ICDC. At ICDC, SBE participation is through the SBE Academy, which is only open to chapters that certify or recertify.

State Leadership Academy (SLDA)

- SLDA participants will have the opportunity to participate in different workshops led by professional leadership trainers and coaches.

Entrepreneurship Pitch Lab

- Do you have students who are launching or operating their own business? Students who are launching or currently operating their own business are invited to the VA DECA Entrepreneurship Pitch Lab.

Conference Intern

- We are able to accept a max of 5 students.
- Students will assist beginning at opening session and concluding at the closing session. A schedule will be provided to selected participants.

State Officer Candidates

- State officer candidates should refer to the State Officer Application packet for more information. Details can be found at <https://www.vadeca.org/runforoffice>

SLC Preview & Hotel Info Guide

Travel Planning Guide for DECA Advisors

SLC - Event Eligibility Numbers

SLC Recognition Ribbons

SLC Important Guidelines

Registration Window: January 11-15, 2027

- Registration Site: <https://www.decaregistration.com/va>
- Students must be PAID DECA members to register for SLC and ICDC
- Student-to-Adult Ratio: Chapters must adhere to DECA's required student-to-adult ratio of 10:1.
- For ICDC, the ratio is 8:1 per DECA Inc. policy.
- All registrations will be monitored for compliance.
- **January 22 SLC Registration Lock Date. No Changes & Refunds.**

Registration Requirements

- All advisors and chaperones must be registered for the conference.
- Advisors may not register as chaperones. Registrations and invoices will be reviewed and adjusted if needed.
- Every participant must be registered under their real name—no placeholders (e.g., "Jane Doe," "Bus Driver 1").
- Charter Bus Drivers may not be considered chaperones.
- The role of a chaperone is to attend all conference events.
- A school bus driver is not considered a chaperone unless they are explicitly expected to fulfill both roles.

Housing Policy:

- All attendees must stay in an official Virginia DECA hotel.
- DO NOT call the hotel for additional rooms. All changes to reservations must be made through Virginia DECA.
- Students may not drive themselves unless their school district allows it and proper documentation, including administrative approval, is submitted to the chapter advisor

Payment & Refund Policies:

- **SLC Payments are due by February 5, 2027.**
- Chapters are responsible for paying for all registered students, even if they do not attend.
- **No refunds will be issued after January 22, 2026.**
- A \$50 late payment fee will be charged for all payments received after the deadline.
- Invoices must be paid prior to the start of the state leadership conference.

Substitutions & Cancellations:

- January 18–22: Use the official Google Form to request substitutions (same event, same gender, paid DECA member) or report true registration errors.
- The form will remain open through February 26 for cancellations only.

Virginia DECA Diamond Fund

The Virginia DECA Diamond Fund provides need-based financial support to help student members participate in the State Leadership Conference (SLC) and International Career Development Conference (ICDC).

The program ensures every qualified member can experience DECA's state and international opportunities, regardless of financial barriers.

Important Deadlines

● SLC Application Due: January 5, 2027
● ICDC Applications: March 1, 2027
(Pending available funds after SLC)



DECA Diamond Fund Information

Student Application

Advisor Diamond Fund Form

VA DECA Merit Award

Applications and accompanying documentation are due **no later than December 4, 2026**.

VA DECA Merit Award Application

VA DECA Honor Society

Applications and accompanying documentation are due no later than **December 4, 2026**.

VA DECA Honor Society Application

Applications are NOW OPEN for Virginia DECA Foundation Scholarships!

Great news! Applications for the Virginia DECA Foundation scholarships are officially live. All of the details can be found in the Student Hub or Advisor Portal.

VA DECA Foundation Scholarship Application

VIRGINIA DECA
DECA STATE LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

WE NEED JUDGES!

Support. Encourage. Invest in tomorrow's leaders.

 **Saturday, February 27, 2027**
and/or ONLINE prior to the conference

 **Virginia Beach Convention Center**

 **Orientation: 7:15 AM**
8:00 AM - Approximately 2:00 PM

 **REGISTER TO JUDGE:**
<https://bit.ly/vadecaslcjudge>

Be the Difference.

Future Leaders Start Here.

DECA

VIRGINIA DECA
LEADERS TODAY. BRIGHTER TOMORROW.

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www.vadeca.org