



EIGHT MYTHS ABOUT BEING A FIRST YEAR MEMBER OF DECA

1. DECA is stressful and makes you nervous.

False! Ok, sometimes you do get stressed and can be nervous. But being prepared can help with that. Be passionate about what you are doing and make sure you are prepared. It will make you look better and you will feel better about what you are presenting. Not being nervous can make you look and feel the best you can be.

2. DECA is a Confidence Booster.

True! A little bit of confidence goes a long way. Confidence can give you a new look at life and make you look professional. Confidence can make you a better person and get you more opportunities.

3. DECA is the same ol' thing, day after day.

False! Trying new things can open doors for you that normally would not have been there. New things can spark a new interest in you, and get you to be more productive. Trying new things will add spice to your life.

4. DECA does not prepare you for the future.

False! DECA prepares you for the future. What better way to learn about networking and social skills than to be a member of DECA? Firm handshakes and eye contact can make an employer or judge put you higher on their list and improve your chances of getting a job or making the stage. Never underestimate the first impression and the basic soft skills you will learn through DECA.

5. DECA is fun and exciting.

True! DECA can provide a lot of opportunities for you to socialize, get to know other students in your school, your state, or across the country. DECA provides opportunities for you to participate in social activities, community service projects, leadership, and meeting business people.

6. DECA is all about competition.

False! DECA does offer you the opportunity to compete in a specialized field, and more than 50 competitive events are available. However DECA is more than competition. It allows you to be a leader, to participate in community service projects, to work with others and build communication and team work skills and participate in social activities.

7. First year members cannot attend conferences or travel.

False! Any DECA member can participate in a conference or travel, however some schools have restrictions on the number of students that can attend a conference or regulations on who can attend. Check with your advisor. But many first year members compete, attend the leadership conferences, and are very successful. Some first year members even qualify for the ICDC each year and compete at the national level. First year members can get a good experience in competition at the Fall Leadership Conference to help them prepare for the year.

8. First year members can't run for state office.

False! First year members can run for office. Nominations are due in February and the election takes place in March each year. To run for office you need to be a sophomore or junior (serving as a junior or senior). It does not matter how many years of DECA experience you have. It's your drive to be a leader and help others in the state have a great DECA experience.

DECA provides a lot of opportunities. You have to pick and choose what you want to participate in and what you want to get out of your experiences. Learn more about DECA at www.nddeca.org.

Prepared by 202017-2018 North Dakota State Officer Team.

