



TEN MYTHS ABOUT NORTH DAKOTA DECA

1. Small schools can't be successful at SCDC

The judges do not judge you based on your school size. They judge you on your presentation and quality of work. It does not matter if your resources are limited. You can still be successful as long as you believe in what you are doing and do it with confidence.

2. There are not many ways to be involved in DECA

This is completely false. DECA gives members so many ways to be involved with the organization at so many levels. At the most basic level, you can cover the major objective for National DECA which is to *Expand Your Network*. By attending chapter socials, you can “expand your network” and meet or become better acquainted with members from within your own chapter. You can attend conferences including the State Fall Leadership Conference, the Central Region Leadership Conference or the State Career Development Conference. You can continue your contribution at the state level by competing in Role-Plays, Written Projects, and many other ways, which could qualify you for ICDC!!!!

3. DECA requires a lot of time

This depends on your level of involvement. You can still be really involved and still do other activities (i.e. sports, debate, speech, etc.). If you balance your time and put forth the effort DECA can be balanced between other activities and our job.

4. DECA is expensive

False! Chapters do plenty of fundraising activities to bring costs down for the students (i.e. Schwans, Applebees, or Wonderful Night Ticket Sales). Your chapter may seek donations from private businesses to help lower costs of travel expenses and/or chapter events.

5. You have to be smart to be in DECA

False! You just need to work hard in school and be in school every day you can. Abide by your local chapter rules and study. Pay attention in your Marketing classes and get all your make-up work before you leave for any DECA Conference. It doesn't matter if you have a one-year, two-year or three-year program, you can learn on your own as well. All of the performance indicators for every event are listed on the DECA website.

6. You have to be outgoing or popular to be in DECA

Myth! People are born with that attribute in their system, while it is dormant in other people. The outgoing people can naturally blend with other people they do not know and are comfortable with it. This is one thing that DECA brings out of people and helps them feel comfortable around other people. Participating in local activities or the leadership conferences will help boost your enthusiasm to be more involved.

7. DECA only helps you if you want to be a business person

FALSE! DECA is a vehicle used in every aspect of professionalism and can be used for any career. DECA helps members prepare for real job situations in any field (i.e. job interviews, correct etiquette, etc.). Also, DECA gives its members great leadership skills for any career in any field.

8. DECA is all work, there is no fun!

COMPLETELY FALSE!! DECA is all fun! Although we do compete and have business meetings we incorporate fun into everything we do. Whether it's listening to a Keynote Speaker, doing something fun and energizing during sessions or by having fun activities planned for the members to go to such as a social activity (i.e. Hypnotist, Improv Teams, DECA Parties, etc.) DECA offers a variety of opportunities.

9. First year members can't win competition

Not at all true! Any member can win a competition. It is up to you to put forth the effort. You can't just go and win, you have to prepare before you go to local or state competition. Any member can win if they prepare themselves and put in the time and effort to care about their event. Just like any sport or other competitive activity, the more you practice and prepare the better you are. Your advisor is your coach. But you need to practice on your own as well. You don't join football and never practice and expect to go to the state tournament and take first place. The same is true with DECA. You need practice just like a team and be prepared before you go to competition.

10. Only chapter or state officers go on trips.

False! Any member in DECA can go on trips. Opportunities lie everywhere for any member of DECA (i.e. Fall Leadership Conference, Central Region Leadership Conference, State Career and Development Conference, and International Career and Development Conference plus a variety of other opportunities like the Entrepreneurship Conference, New York Experience Conference or local or state conferences or activities). You may have chapter regulations to abide by, however. Check with your advisor.