



ADVISOR OF THE YEAR

The Montana DECA Advisor of the Year Award recognizes a Montana DECA chapter advisor who demonstrates exceptional dedication to their students, chapter, school, community, and the broader Montana DECA organization.

The award celebrates advisors who go above and beyond to create meaningful DECA experiences, develop student leaders, grow their chapter, and positively impact the lives of the students they serve.

VIDEO SUBMISSION

Each nomination should include a video submission of no more than two (2) minutes.

The purpose of the video is to show, rather than simply tell, the impact of the advisor.

The strongest nominations will capture the advisor's story through the voices of the people whose lives and DECA experiences they have influenced.

WHAT MAKES AN OUTSTANDING ADVISOR?

An Advisor of the Year nominee should demonstrate a meaningful combination of:

- **Student Impact** — Making a lasting difference in students' lives, both within and beyond DECA.
- **Leadership Development** — Developing confident, capable, and engaged student leaders.
- **Chapter Growth** — Building a stronger, more active, and more inclusive DECA chapter.
- **Dedication to DECA** — Consistently investing time, energy, and passion into the organization.
- **Student Advocacy** — Creating opportunities and removing barriers so students can succeed.
- **Mentorship** — Supporting students through competition, leadership, academics, career exploration, and personal growth.
- **Innovation** — Finding creative ways to make DECA relevant, engaging, and meaningful.
- **Community & School Impact** — Building relationships with school administrators, educators, families, businesses, and community partners.
- **Professionalism & Character** — Serving as a positive role model who demonstrates integrity, enthusiasm, and a commitment to students.

MAKE THE VIDEO ABOUT IMPACT

Rather than creating a résumé of the advisor's accomplishments, focus on questions such as:

- How has this advisor changed students' lives?
- What would their chapter look like without them?
- How have they helped students discover confidence, leadership, or career opportunities?
- How have they built a culture where students want to participate and succeed?
- What is something this advisor has done that students will remember for the rest of their lives?

WHO MAY ENTER

The contest is open to eligible members of Montana DECA in good standing.

SHOWCASE AS MANY VOICES AS POSSIBLE

The most compelling nominations will feature a wide range of people sharing, in their own words, how the advisor has made a difference.

Consider including voices from:

- Current DECA members
- Chapter officers
- Former DECA members and alumni
- Students from different grade levels
- Fellow teachers
- School administrators
- Parents and families
- Business and community partners
- Other DECA advisors
- Montana DECA leaders

Keep each testimonial brief, authentic, and impactful. Whenever possible, feature multiple people rather than relying on one long testimonial.

VIDEO QUALITY

Professional equipment is not required. Authenticity and substance are more important than production value.

Nominators should:

- Keep the video at or under two minutes.
- Prioritize clear audio.
- Keep testimonials brief.
- Use captions or on-screen names when helpful.
- Incorporate photos and video from the nominee's DECA experience when available.
- Avoid lengthy introductions or credits.
- Ensure the nominee's accomplishments and impact are easy to understand.
- Obtain appropriate permission from individuals appearing in the video, particularly students.

DEADLINE

December 18, 2026

www.mtdeca.org/scdc