



MEMBER OF THE YEAR

The Montana DECA Member of the Year Award recognizes an exceptional DECA member who demonstrates outstanding service, leadership, dedication, and impact within their local chapter and the broader DECA community.

The ideal nominee is more than a successful competitor or officer—they are someone who makes their chapter, school, community, and fellow DECA members better through their involvement.

VIDEO SUBMISSION

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

The video should tell the story of why this member deserves to be Montana DECA Member of the Year.

Rather than simply listing accomplishments, the video should demonstrate the nominee's character, leadership, influence, and impact on others.

RECOMMENDED VIDEO CONTENT

Nominators are encouraged to include as many of the following as possible:

- **Multiple people recommending the nominee.** Feature fellow DECA members, chapter officers, advisors, teachers, administrators, business partners, community members, or others who have personally experienced the nominee's leadership.
- **Short testimonials.** Each person should briefly explain why the nominee is deserving of the award. Specific examples are encouraged.
- **Leadership and service.** Highlight how the nominee has contributed to their chapter and helped others succeed.
- **DECA involvement.** Showcase participation in competitive events, chapter activities, conferences, leadership opportunities, community service, recruitment, fundraising, or other DECA initiatives.
- **Impact on other members.** Explain how the nominee has encouraged, mentored, supported, or inspired fellow members.
- **Growth of the chapter.** Demonstrate how the nominee has helped strengthen membership, participation, culture, or programming.
- **Personal character.** Highlight qualities such as initiative, dependability, professionalism, resilience, integrity, enthusiasm, and a willingness to serve others.
- **Specific stories.** Whenever possible, replace general statements such as "they are a great leader" with a quick example that demonstrates their leadership.

MAKE THE NOMINEE THE FOCUS

The strongest videos should feel like a celebration of the nominee, not simply a résumé on video.

Consider structuring the video around three questions:

- Who is this member?
- What have they done for DECA?
- What difference have they made in other people's lives?

WHO MAY ENTER

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

SHOWCASE AS MANY VOICES AS POSSIBLE

Because Member of the Year recognizes service and dedication to the DECA program, the nomination should demonstrate the nominee's impact through the people who know them best. Nominators are strongly encouraged to feature as many individual recommendations as reasonably possible within the two-minute limit.

For example, a video could feature 8-12 people providing 5-10 second testimonials, interspersed with photographs or video clips of the nominee participating in DECA.

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