



ICDC TRADING PIN CONTEST

The Montana DECA ICDC Trading Pin Design Contest gives Montana DECA members the opportunity to showcase their creativity, school spirit, and connection to Montana DECA by designing an original trading pin to represent Montana at the DECA International Career Development Conference (ICDC).

The winning design will be selected to represent Montana DECA and will be produced as an official trading pin for members to share and trade with DECA members from across the country and around the world at ICDC.

This contest challenges students to create a design that is creative, memorable, visually appealing, and representative of Montana DECA.

DESIGN REQUIREMENTS

Entries should be designed with the final product in mind. A successful trading pin should be visually recognizable, appealing at a small size, and easy to reproduce as a physical pin.

The design should:

- Represent Montana DECA in a positive and professional manner.
- Incorporate recognizable elements of Montana, DECA, or both.
- Be original and created by the participant.
- Be visually clear and easy to identify.
- Work effectively as a physical trading pin.
- Include "Montana DECA" or the official Montana DECA Logo.
- Be appropriate for a national and international DECA audience.

CREATIVITY & MONTANA REPRESENTATION

Students are encouraged to think beyond traditional Montana imagery. Designs may incorporate Montana landmarks, landscapes, wildlife, outdoor recreation, agriculture, culture, state symbols, or other creative concepts.

The strongest designs will create a clear connection between Montana and DECA while remaining attractive and interesting to students from other states and countries.

Consider asking:

- What makes Montana unique?
- What does Montana DECA mean to its members?
- What would make another DECA member want to trade for this pin?
- Would the design still be recognizable when viewed from a distance?
- Does the design tell a story about Montana DECA?

PRIZE

\$150 Cash Prize For Selected Design.

The State Officer Team will evaluate all designs and will select and announce the winner at the Annual State Career Development Conference.

WHO MAY ENTER

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

Participants may submit an original design created specifically for the contest. Unless otherwise specified by Montana DECA, each participant may submit one entry.

DESIGN CONSIDERATIONS

When developing a pin design, participants should consider how their artwork will translate from a digital or printed design into an actual physical pin.

Designers should pay attention to:

- **Simplicity:** Avoid excessive detail that may be difficult to reproduce.
- **Color:** Use a purposeful and limited color palette.
- **Typography:** Ensure words and lettering remain legible at a small size.
- **Shape:** Consider an interesting or distinctive pin shape when appropriate.
- **Branding:** Use DECA branding accurately and appropriately.
- **Originality:** Create a design that stands out among hundreds of other trading pins.
- **Collectability:** Think about whether another DECA member would be excited to add the pin to their collection.

DEADLINE

January 18, 2027

www.mtdeca.org/scdc

PROHIBITED CONTENT

Entries must maintain a professional image consistent with DECA's standards.

Designs may not contain:

- Offensive, discriminatory, or inappropriate content
- Profanity or inappropriate language
- Political campaign messaging
- Copyrighted artwork or imagery used without permission
- Unauthorized trademarks, logos, characters, or other intellectual property
- Content that could negatively represent Montana DECA or DECA Inc.
- Participants are responsible for ensuring that all elements of their design are original or appropriately authorized for use.