

AR DECA State Officer Campaign/Election Guidelines

Six (6) executive officers will be elected by their peers at the annual DECA State Career Development Conference. The officer positions are: President, VP of Marketing, VP of Finance, VP of Career Development, VP of Leadership, and VP of Hospitality.

NOTIFICATION OF CANDIDACY

Candidates may notify chapters of their intent to run immediately following SCDC online registration. Notification may be in the form of an email to the chapter advisor. The chapter advisor should share this information with the members. No campaign materials may be given to the members until SCDC.

CAMPAINING

AR DECA officer candidates are encouraged to focus their campaign efforts on their personal brand and qualifications for leadership.

Candidates will be allowed **one (1) item of printed material** (brochures, flyers, cards) to handout. Printed material may be distributed during the “Meet the Candidates Session”, during caucusing or to any voting delegate.

Each candidate is allowed to design and decorate a maximum 2x3-foot (24”x36”) poster to display in a central location. This poster will be turned in to AR DECA staff at SCDC Registration. No edits may be made to the poster after this time. **Candidates may spend up to \$100 on the production of the poster.**

The following are **unacceptable** items or actions during campaigning:

- Candidate t-shirts
- Distribution of any food or beverage items (candy, popcorn, water, etc.)
- Stickers
- No campaigning after curfew to include candidate caucus interviews
- No campaign giveaways of monetary value (includes fair-market value of “donated items”)

If an AR DECA chapter believes a campaign violation has been made, they should notify the AR DECA State Advisor or his/her staff.

MEET THE CANDIDATES

On the first day of SCDC, there will be a “Meet the Candidates” Session. This session should take place in the morning before competition begins. Time/location will be announced before SCDC begins. Candidates will be given their posters to display and may distribute any printed material to members during this time. This session will be an opportunity for candidates to have one-on-one conversations with members.

CANDIDATE CAMPAIGN SESSIONS

Each candidate will be given the opportunity for one 3-minute speech. Speeches will take place immediately following the SCDC Opening Session. All officer candidates will be seated on the stage, while all voting delegates will sit in front of the stage area. Voting delegates must be wearing their official ribbon to participate. Only voting delegates, AR DECA advisors, current AR DECA State Officers, and AR DECA staff may attend this session. Everyone in attendance will listen to all speeches. The AR DECA State Advisor (or his/her representative) must be in attendance.

After the speeches are finished, there will be a question and answer period for each candidate. AR DECA chapters will pre-submit two questions for each candidate position. Questions must be appropriate and not in violation of the conference code of conduct. Questions will be separated by candidate position. Each candidate will pick one question from the question pool and hand it to the AR DECA State President. The AR DECA State President will read the question aloud and the candidate will have one (1) minute to answer. The next candidate for that office will repeat the process. After all candidates for that office have answered one question, the process will repeat one more time.

A senior AR DECA State VP will be the official timer for both speeches and question/answer period. He/She will say "TIME" at the end of the allotted time. The officer candidate must stop speaking immediately.

No campaign material is to be handed out during this session to those in attendance.

VOTING

State officer candidates must attend the election session. Before the ballots are distributed, candidates will come forward when their name is called so the voting delegates know who is still in the running. Candidates will leave the room during the voting, but must remain close in case a re-vote is needed. There will be no campaigning during this time.

All official election and voting procedures will take place immediately following the candidate campaign speeches and question/answer period. Once voting begins, if voting delegates leave the room, they will not be allowed to re-enter.

Voting will be done by secret ballot. Ballots will be created, distributed, and tabulated by the AR DECA State Advisor and his/her state staff. Each chapter receives two votes to be placed by two pre-selected voting delegates. Voting delegates must be wearing their voting delegate ribbon to vote. Voting delegates must remain after all ballots are submitted in case a re-vote is needed.

All state officer positions will be elected by a majority of all voting delegates participating. The voting delegate will be allowed to cast an affirmative or an abstention vote, such abstention

counting neither for nor against the candidate. In the case of only one candidate running for an office, the voting delegate will have the option of a negative vote. The “no” vote means that the delegate would rather have no representative than the one running.

Voting will continue until one candidate in each race has a majority of the votes. On each ballot, candidates with the lowest votes or those who do not receive 15% of the votes will be dropped from the ballot.

Until a majority vote is reached, the remaining candidates will come forward as their names are called so that voting delegates may see which candidates they wish to vote for on the next ballot.

The newly elected state officers will be announced at the Awards Session.

No campaign material will be allowed in any of the election sessions.