

 **Your signature on the Form A Washington DECA Delegate Permission, Release, and Code of Conduct acknowledges compliance with the following policies:**

- 1) Attendance at any DECA or Washington DECA conference, activity, or event (interchangeably, “Conference”) is a privilege. The following conduct policies will apply to delegates, defined as all state officers, students, DECA advisors, chaperones, and any other authorized persons attending the activity. Delegates shall abide by the rules and practices of Washington DECA and school district policies at all times, including but not limited to travel to, from, and during a Conference. Delegates shall respect and abide by the authority vested in the Washington DECA organization. The school district/school assumes responsibility for any property damage, accidental or otherwise, that is caused by a member of their school/district delegation at a DECA or Washington DECA conference, activity, or event. Chapter Advisor represents and warrants to Washington DECA that Chapter Advisor has the express authority to bind Delegate’s school district and school to this provision, and such school district and school are hereby bound.

**The following shall be regarded as SEVERE violations of the Washington DECA Code of Conduct, Parent/Guardians and Students must initial each of the severe violations in items 1 through 8 to ensure they understand and will comply:**

Should a Code of Conduct violation occur for items **1** through **8** below, regardless of when discovered by Washington DECA, the violating delegate(s) will be sent home and will not be eligible to attend state, regional, or international conference during the school year and possibly in future years. Determination of penalties for violations will be at the discretion of the Washington DECA Executive Director and Board of Directors, Risk Management Committee.

1. **Social Media:** As a member of Washington DECA, delegates represent their school, state, and DECA Inc. organizations. As delegates create, post, share, like, and link to content through all social media sites (including but not limited to: Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, YouTube, Pinterest, Tumblr, TikTok.), it is important to keep in mind that people they do not know (including DECA advisors, sponsors, and potential employers) have the ability to review and archive the delegates’ social media profile and activities. Washington DECA will remove any delegate social media activity that breaks the Washington DECA Code of Conduct or is otherwise derogatory or inappropriate, as determined by Washington DECA in its sole discretion. This includes, but is not limited to, posts, photos, videos, shares, and retweets that:
  - a. Use foul language
  - b. Negatively portray the delegate, school, DECA chapters, members, and/or the DECA organization
  - c. Violate trademark law
  - d. Portray or insinuate illegal behavior (such as underage drinking, texting while driving, violence, etc.). In the event a photo, video, message, tweet, or other post portrays or insinuates illegal behavior, the delegate’s parent/legally-appointed guardian, DECA Advisor, and law enforcement may be contacted by Washington DECA.
2. **Alcohol and Drugs:** A delegate shall not possess, use, transmit, be under the influence of, or show evidence of having used any alcoholic beverage or other drugs or substances capable of or intended, purported, or presumed capable of altering a delegate’s mood, perception, behavior, or judgment; other than properly used, over-the-counter pain relievers and other medications prescribed by a physician for an individual delegate, which must be on record with the advisor. Nor shall the delegate possess, use, sell, or transmit paraphernalia associated with drugs, alcohol, or chemical substances in any form (this includes but is not limited to e-cigarettes, marijuana, and consumables), at any time, or under any circumstances, on public or private properties;
3. **Curfew:** Committing serious violations of curfew regulations outlined in item 9 below;

4. **Willful Companionship:** Being in the willful companionship of someone who violates any portion of the Code of Conduct, or failing to report any direct knowledge (other than hearsay) of the Code of Conduct violations;
5. **Personal Conduct:** Participating in social activities other than those with conference participants; conducting acts and/or possession of weapons capable of causing bodily harm or fear of life; defacing, damaging, or stealing public or private property (for which financial responsibility will rest solely with the involved delegates and their respective parent(s)/legally-authorized guardian(s) or the involved delegates' school district(s)/school(s); other serious violations of personal conduct regulations outlined in item 11 below;
6. **School Code Violations:** Serious violations of the conduct code of the school district or school that the delegate represents;
7. **Public or Private Transportation:** Driving or riding in a private automobile or using public transportation during the conference, unless accompanied by an authorized advisor or parent/legally-authorized guardian. Delegates are to be housed at the conference site and are not allowed to drive or ride in a private automobile or use public transportation unless they live within close proximity (20 miles) of the conference site and are not staying overnight. Delegates living within close proximity (20 miles) of the conference site that are not staying overnight are required to submit Form D Permission to Use Public or Private Transportation ("Form D") to the chapter advisor prior to the conference. Permission to drive/ride applies to transportation of the delegate named on the Form D only, to and from the conference site. Once a driving/riding delegate has arrived at the conference site, she/he shall not be in a private automobile again until leaving for that day;
8. **Abusive Behavior and Lewd Conduct:** A delegate shall not engage in any lewd, indecent, sexual, or obscene act or expression. A delegate shall not engage in verbal, physical or sexual harassment, hazing, or name-calling. The use of slurs against any person, including but not limited to slurs used against a person on the basis of race, color, creed, national origin, ancestry, age, sex, sexual orientation, or disability is prohibited. This includes harassment or abusive conduct using a mobile device;

Should a Code of Conduct violation occur for items **9** through **15** below, regardless of when discovered by Washington DECA, the violating delegate(s) may be subject to disciplinary action, including being sent home from the Conference and/or being declared ineligible for attendance at any other state, regional, or international Conference during that school year and possibly in future years. Determination of penalties for violations will be at the discretion of the Washington DECA Executive Director and/or Board of Directors.

9. **Conference Conduct:** Failing to wear the supplied Conference ID badge at all times, from arrival at the Conference until departure at the end of the Conference; leaving sessions prior to their conclusion (except in the case of a personal, medical, chapter, or family emergency); failing to attend all general sessions and assigned activities (including workshops, competitive events, committee meetings, etc.) for which a participant is registered (unless engaged in a specific assignment taking place at the same time);
10. **Curfew:** Failing to be in your assigned hotel room from the curfew time designated in the Conference program until 6 a.m.; causing any noise or other disturbance audible by anyone in the hallway after the designated curfew time; making room-to-room telephone calls after the designated curfew time; ordering or having delivered any food after the designated curfew time; causing any other unnecessary disturbance or participating in any other inappropriate activity after the designated curfew time;
11. **Dress:** Failing to abide by the dress regulations established for the Conference, as outlined in the Dress Code;
12. **Personal Conduct:** Failing to keep adult advisors informed of activities and whereabouts at all times; using tobacco products; invading another delegate, volunteer, or staff member's personal space without consent of the individual;
13. **Hotel Conduct:** Failing to meet the professional standards of housing facilities. This includes but is not limited to:
  - Accruing incidental room charges (i.e., phone calls, room service, pay-per-view movies, etc.) without settling the account prior to check-out
  - Throwing objects out the window or into the hallway
  - Moving hotel furniture from rooms (e.g., onto the balcony)

- Failing to follow hotel rules and regulations
  - Having a member of the opposite sex in a room where no DECA appointed adult chaperone is present
  - Being out on a hotel room balcony
  - Causing a disturbance to other guests or behaving in an irresponsible manner in the hotel pool or fitness center.
14. **Pools and Fitness Centers:** Washington DECA reserves the right to deny pool and fitness center usage to delegates without adult supervision;
15. **Additional Conduct Requirements for State Officers:** Failing to represent Washington DECA and the DECA brand, including any conduct that, as determined by Washington DECA Executive Director or the Executive Director's designee in their sole discretion, demonstrates unprofessional and/or unethical behavior, or misrepresents the organization in any way. Failing to follow through on state officer commitments and directives, including meeting attendance, conference attendance, and fulfilling the Program of Leadership and related responsibilities, shall also constitute a violation of this Section 14.

**Delegates:** By signing the Washington DECA Delegate Permission, Release, and Code of Conduct Form A, I confirm that I have read and agree to abide by the Washington DECA Code of Conduct.

**State Officers:** I understand that as a Washington DECA state officer, violation of the Code of Conduct will result in resignation from office and the penalty of reimbursing Washington DECA for the money spent on training and other officer activities throughout the year.