

16. What kind of summer planning occurs for a successful DECA year?

Lucinda Mason:

I elect (or appoint) my president in the spring. I set up several meetings with him/her during the summer. I work 12 months, so I just have her (usually) come up to the school to meet with me.

Al Gancarz:

I used the summer to plan chapter projects. Making contacts and arrangements is important. Create a calendar and reserve the gym or other places you will need to pull off your events during the school year. In New York, we used to have a DECA Summer Camp that we took students to for a week of intensive leadership training. It is great for students and advisors.

Bill Lind:

I always had a summer retreat where we set chapter and individual/team goals.

Debbie Tixier:

Once you have done it for several years, your summer planning time is not as big a factor. If you are doing coop/internship, then you may have to hunt for jobs for students over the summer. Most of my summer work is spent getting the SBE (snack bar) up and running for the coming year. That job takes about an extra 2-3 weeks at the beginning of the school year, and of course it is not a part of my contract. You just do it because you have to in order to feed 800 kids on the first day of school.

Once you have your curriculum set up, some time is spent before school getting the first two or three weeks worth of lesson plans and papers copied so you don't have to deal with that during those first crazy weeks. There is a lot of DECA information we give in our DECA unit at the beginning of the year that is copied ahead in order to facilitate those first couple of weeks.

Dennis Sweetapple:

Planning never stops. Working on your approach in the summer makes the start-up of school so much easier.

Mike Karpie:

Summer is one of the best times for DECA. There's no school to worry about. We have a campout at Darien Lake, a campground and amusement park. We do all the planning for the year during this time. We also work many community events during the summer, for example, the Chicken Wing Festival, Burgerfest, Bostonfest. We also work on many manual topics and spend hours with local businesses during the summer.