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Renewal Registrations Open August 1st

The renewal period for CTEC Registered Tax Preparers (CRTPs) for the 2025/2026 cycle begins August 1, 2025, and ends October 31, 2025.

[Ready to Renew? Click Here!](#)

How to Renew Online

To renew your registration online, visit the CTEC homepage and click the [CRTP Login](#) button located at the top of the page.

Ensure you have the following ready:

- Basic personal information.
- Current bond information—including any claims made against your bond; see below for details.
- 20 hours of continuing education (10 hours federal tax law, 3 hours federal tax law updates, 2 hours ethics, 5 hours state) already uploaded into the CTEC database by your education provider.
- A current IRS Preparer Tax Identification Number (PTIN).
- Visa or MasterCard to pay the \$33 registration fee plus a \$2 processing fee.

Important Note: Some CRTPs mistakenly believe they have completed the renewal process by reprinting their certificate for \$10. Please follow all renewal steps outlined above and pay all required fees to ensure your registration is successfully renewed.

[Renew Here!](#)



Have Renewal Questions?

What if My Education Has Not Been Reported?

To renew online, all continuing education must be electronically reported to CTEC by your education provider(s). If your hours are missing, contact your education provider(s) directly and confirm they have your valid CTEC ID number so they can upload your hours. CTEC policy gives education providers until the end of the quarter to report your hours outside of the renewal cycle and up to ten business days from the course completion date to report your hours during the renewal cycle (August 1 through October 31).

Note: CTEC education providers only submit your education hours; they do not register you with CTEC. You must complete the final registration steps yourself, as outlined above.

Can I Use Unused Education from Last Year?

CTEC's registration cycle runs from November 1 through October 31 each year. Any education completed within those dates is valid for that specific cycle. For example, if you took a course on or after November 1, 2024, and did not use it for your 2024/2025 renewal, it can be applied toward your 2025/2026 renewal.

Important: If your 2023/2024 registration expired and you registered as a new tax preparer for 2024/2025, any continuing education completed *before* your new registration cannot be counted towards renewal. **Do not complete continuing education hours before your new registration is active.**

What Happens if I Have a Bond Claim?

CRTPS are required by California law to report bond claims. Under your CTEC account there's an option to select "Add New Paid Bond Claim." You need to enter the information on this page if a client made a claim against your bond for any damage you reportedly committed; this includes fraud, dishonesty, misstatement, misrepresentation, deceit, or any unlawful acts or omissions.

If this is not the case, and you did none of the above—then your bond information does not need to be added on this page. If you have submitted a paid bond claim in error, you must remove the claim submission by selecting "Remove Paid Bond Claim."

Do I Have to Display My Certificate?

Yes, all current CTEC certificates must be clearly visible to consumers at your primary place of business. Certificates may be displayed at the entrance, on desks, or in another prominent location where business is conducted.



To receive continuing education credits at the [IRS Nationwide Tax Forums](#), CRTPs **must provide their CTEC Identification Number** (which begins with an "A" followed by six digits) when registering with the IRS.

Many CRTPs have reported not receiving a certificate of completion from the IRS Tax Forum. This is most often because a CTEC ID number was not provided during the IRS registration process.

CTEC will attend the San Diego Forum on September 16–18.



Public Awareness Update

During the 2025 tax season, CTEC prioritized the promotion of its Taxpayer Beware podcast in both English and Spanish. The podcast achieved a combined total of 109,133 downloads and views, with most episodes ranking within the top 5% of national download averages. Notably, two episodes performed exceptionally well, reaching the top 1%.

Following the launch of the new website in April, CTEC initiated a second campaign to inform taxpayers about ghost tax preparers and to caution LA wildfire victims about potential scams. These campaigns, running through October, utilize a mix of mobile ads, audio ads, CTV/OTT targeting, and Google Ads to maximize outreach.

Enforcement Update

During the 2024/2025 fiscal year, the Franchise Tax Board (FTB) Tax Preparer Enforcement Team contacted 1,753 questionable tax preparers, including some who failed to comply in the prior year. Tax preparers in need of attention from enforcement are contacted by mail. To view FTB's presentation to the CTEC Board of Directors outlining updates as of May 1, 2025, [click here](#).

Unregistered tax preparers who are caught preparing or assisting with preparing tax returns for a fee will receive a \$2,500 penalty - a first failure to register penalty. However, the penalty will be waived if proof of a valid credential is provided to FTB within 90-days from the date the penalty notice is mailed to the tax preparer.

If the tax preparer does not provide FTB with proof of a valid credential, FTB will issue a \$5,000 penalty for each subsequent failure to register.

CTEC pays for the entire enforcement program. All penalties collected by FTB are deposited into the state's general fund. Enforcement updates will be provided in CTEC's annual report.

Want to Serve on the CTEC Board?

Would you like to be part of CTEC's efforts to support tax preparers and protect the public? We're always looking for dedicated CRTPs to serve on the Council as positions become available. To learn more and submit your application, please watch our video.



[Apply Here](#)

Upcoming Board Meetings

San Jose, CA
November 12 - 13, 2025

Sacramento, CA
May 19 - 21, 2026

*The Curriculum Provider Task Force Meeting will be held virtually May 19, 2026

Orange County, CA
November 4 - 5, 2026

CTEC Board

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Sacramento, CA 95812

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