



Regional and National Student Conference Competitions

National Society for MANRRS

**2018 National Contest Request for Applications**

**APPLICATION DEADLINES:**

Undergraduate, Graduate and General Contests: **January 31, 2018**

Jr. MANRRS Contests: **March 1, 2018**

# National Society for MANRRS

## Annual Career Fair and Training Conference Student Competitions

### Introduction

MANRRS has emphasized the importance to provide a myriad of opportunities for members to create a robust platform by demonstrating talent to achieve future goals. As a competition contestant, MANRRS has coupled this with an equal commitment to help students learn how to process research information as a necessary component to professional and academic excellence. Members have opportunities to effectively develop, enhance and express competencies in each competition; while, acquiring a network, scholarships, internships, and full-time positions.

### General Benefits to Participants

- A new opportunity to show your talent and apply your skills through comprehensive research.
- Connect with top employers and peers with confidence.
- Build your resume in an enjoyable atmosphere.
- Challenge yourself to speak concisely while conveying ideas effectively.
- Realize your dream by engaging in critical thinking deliberations.
- Develop core competencies:
  - Fostering teamwork
  - Influencing without authority
  - Building relationships
  - Analytical thinking
  - Critical thinking
  - Flexibility

### Application Deadline

All contestants must submit their application package **for the appropriate Contest by 11:59 pm Eastern Time on January 31, 2018**. Applications received after this deadline will not be considered for participation.

### Submission

**Electronic submission only at <http://info.manrrs.org/2018-contest-submission>.**

***Faxed or emailed submissions are not accepted.***

*Entries submitted to the wrong contest or division will be disqualified. Please read contest instructions carefully. If you have any questions, please contact the contest superintendent prior to the contest deadline.*

# Table of Contents

Introduction.....	2
2018 National Contest Description .....	5
Contest Application Procedure .....	7
MANRRS Abstract Guidelines .....	8
Sample Abstract .....	9
Chapter of the Year Award (COYA).....	10
General Description.....	10
Judging Points Guidelines.....	11
Guidelines for Chapter of the Year Award Annual Report.....	12
Criteria for Judging Annual Report .....	12
Awarding of Points .....	13
Sample Chapter of the Year Award (COYA) Regional Judging Score Sheet.....	14
MANRRS BOWL .....	16
General Description.....	16
Layout of MANRRS Bowl .....	16
How to Participate .....	17
MANRRS Bowl Set-up .....	18
MANRRS Bowl Categories & Questions .....	20
Undergraduate and Graduate Oral Research Contest .....	23
General Description.....	23
Contest Evaluation.....	24
Oral Research Presentation Rubric.....	25
Undergraduate and Graduate Research Poster Contest .....	27
General Description.....	27
Research Poster Competition .....	28
Competition/Symposium Guidelines .....	28
Poster Requirements .....	28
Conference/Symposium Tips .....	29
Submission Guidelines .....	29
Poster Research Presentation Rubric .....	30
National Essay Contest .....	32
General Description.....	32
Instructions for How to Write your Paper.....	33
Judging.....	35

Judge’s Score Sheet Sample - Essay .....	37
Point System Explanation .....	37
National Public Speaking Contest .....	38
General Description .....	38
Guidelines for Video Submission of Speech.....	39
Guidelines for Scoring .....	39
Point System for Public Speaking Contest.....	41
Presentation at National Conference .....	42
Guidelines for Presentation Scoring .....	42
Final Round Score Sheet.....	43
National Research Discussion Contest .....	44
General Description .....	44
Contest Goals .....	45
Benefits to Participants .....	45
Instructions for Submitting Essays .....	46
Evaluation Criteria.....	46
Competition.....	47
Scoring/Ranking of National Contestants .....	47
Research Discussion Contestant Rating Sheet .....	48
Agriculture and Science Photography Contest.....	49
General Description .....	49
Photograph Requirements & Guidelines.....	50
Judging Criteria .....	50
Additional information: .....	50
Impromptu Public Speaking Contest .....	51
General Description .....	51
Rules .....	51
Judge’s Score Sheet .....	55
Elevator Speech Contest .....	59
General Description .....	59
Judge’s Score Sheet .....	60

## **2018 National Contest Description**

1. **Chapter of the Year Award**  
The MANRRS Chapter of the Year Award (COYA) contest was designed to promote and encourage leadership development for the members of the local chapters. Such development should further the goals and objectives of the National Society, as well as promote professional growth among its members.
2. **MANRRS Bowl**  
A competition for MANRRS chapters to participate in at the National level. Through this competition, we will increase and test the knowledge of MANRRS Members on MANRRS History and topics with regard to agriculture, natural resources, and related sciences.
3. **Undergraduate and Graduate Oral Research Contest**  
These sessions provide opportunities for undergraduate and graduate students to gain experience in orally presenting their research before an audience. The student's faculty research advisor must certify that the research is the work of the presenter. **Entries may not be duplicated and entered in the Poster Research Contest.**
4. **Undergraduate and Graduate Research Poster Contest**  
This contest provides an opportunity for undergraduate and graduate students to gain experience in presenting their research in poster form before an audience. The student's faculty research advisor must certify that the research is the work of the presenter. Posters can be entered as "Competitive" or "Noncompetitive." **Entries may not be duplicated and entered in the Oral Research Contest.**
5. **National Essay Contest**  
This contest provides an opportunity for **undergraduate** students to gain experience in expressing themselves, through writing.
6. **National Public Speaking Contest**  
This contest provides an opportunity for **undergraduate** students to gain experience in expressing themselves orally before an audience.
7. **Research Discussion Contest**  
This contest is for **undergraduate and graduate** students and it focuses on improving the students' interactive communication skills. Its aim is to prepare students to communicate effectively in the work place and in leadership and management positions.
8. **Agriculture and Science Photography Contest**  
This contest is open to **individuals and chapters**. The purpose of the MANRRS Agriculture and Science Photography Contest is to provide MANRRS members and Chapters with the opportunity to express their love for agriculture and science in an artistic fashion.
9. **Impromptu Public Speaking**  
This contest develops the ability of all MANRRS members to express himself or herself on a given subject without having prepared or rehearsed its content in advance. The 1st and 2nd place winners of each Regional competition will be qualified for the National competition

10. **Business Pitch Contest**

Have an idea for new business or non-profit you would like to start? Your business does not have to exist just yet, but the idea & pitch have to relate to agriculture, natural resources and/or environmental businesses or non-profits. Think “Shark Tank” meets MANRRS!

11. **Elevator Speech Contest**

Active undergraduate and graduate members of MANRRS who attend the regional clusters are eligible to participate. Elevator speeches are limited to 60 seconds on a topic pre-established by the Contest Superintendent.

## Contest Application Procedure

1. A completed electronic MANRRS Submission Form for Contests is required for each individual entry - <http://info.manrrs.org/2018-contest-submission>
2. Electronic submission is required for all contests, with the exception of the Impromptu Speaking and Elevator Speech Contests, which contestants are pre-qualified at the regionals.
3. All entries must be RECEIVED by 11:59 PM EST **January 31, 2018**. Late entries will not be accepted, no exceptions. Participants should receive an automated confirmation upon successful submission of contest entry. Participants will be notified of receipt of their items no later than February 5, 2018.
4. Entries submitted to the wrong contest will not be accepted.
5. Presenters are required to be undergraduate or graduate student members and must attend the national conference. Entrants' names must appear on the national register in the office of the membership chair by **January 31**. No waiver of conference registration fees is granted to participants. The student's chapter advisor or faculty research advisor must certify that the research is the work of the presenter.
6. The top ten finalists for the following contests will present at the National Conference competitively: Oral Research and Research Poster. Participants not in the top ten will have the option to present their research at the national conference during the Research Symposium for training purposes.
7. **PLEASE FOLLOW THE ABSTRACT GUIDELINES FOR PREPARATION OF YOUR ABSTRACT.** Submit Abstracts electronically to the Contest Superintendent. All abstracts should be in Microsoft Word format. The Superintendent reserves the right to reject any submission if the abstract does not meet the established guidelines as shown by the sample abstract or fail to meet the minimum score required for competitive presentation. Direct questions Contest Superintendents for the appropriate Divisions.

## MANRRS Abstract Guidelines

### INSTRUCTIONS FOR PREPARATION OF ABSTRACTS

1. Type Abstracts with one-inch margins and single spacing except between title and authors and between the bodies of abstract. See attached sample abstract. Must be in Microsoft Word format.
2. Participants must submit Abstracts and essays online electronically to <http://info.manrrs.org/2018-contest-submission> by the posted deadline.
3. Capitalize entire title as shown on the sample abstract.
4. Type speaker's initials and surname in capital letters. For all other authors, capitalize only the initials and the first letter of the surnames. Show current mailing address for speaker. Note the author presenting the paper by an asterisk (\*) at the end of his/her full name. List the College/University and location following the name. Skip one line before starting the text.
5. Abstract must be 300 words or LESS and must include:
  - a. *Introduction/statement of problem*
  - b. *Objective*
  - c. *Methodology*
  - d. *Results and Conclusion section that includes significant findings and implications.*The text should cite quantitative data from representative experiments.
6. Do not include graphs, charts, plots, tables, illustrations or references in your abstract.
7. Enter three keywords as indicated in the sample abstract. At least one of the keywords must be taken from the title of your paper.
8. Refer to sample abstract below for proper format.



## **Sample Abstract**

### **OFFICIAL ABSTRACT SAMPLE: 300 WORD ABSTRACT MANRRS**

#### **CONSUMER PERCEPTIONS AND DEMAND FOR MUSCADINE GRAPES AS TABLE FRUIT: A SUPERMARKET STUDY**

L. Theodore and S. Leong, Center for Viticultural Sciences, Florida A & M University, Tallahassee, FL 32307

Among the different varieties of grapes grown in Florida, the muscadine grapes are the most popular among grape growers because of their resistance to diseases and pests. They also have a unique flavor and aroma that are not found in other kinds of grapes. Unfortunately, muscadine grapes also possess certain inherent disadvantages such as a thick skin and seeds that tend to discourage some consumers from buying them. A market study was conducted at three Winn Dixie Stores in 1995, to determine consumers' perceptions of muscadines as fresh fruit, and their willingness to purchase them at various retail prices. Three hundred and fifty three supermarket customers were randomly selected to participate in the study.

The survey revealed that about 50% of the 353 consumers surveyed had a favorable perception of the muscadine taste after eating the fruit. Thirty eight percent of Blacks and 29% of Whites liked the taste and flavor. By gender, 51% of males and 24% of females liked the taste after eating the fruit. Consumers' willingness or likelihood to purchase muscadine grapes was determined by using a logit function to estimate likelihood probabilities with respect to sex, race, age and household size. The projected probabilities showed that there is a relatively good fresh fruit market potential for muscadine grapes in the local supermarket stores.

**KEY WORDS**—Muscadines, Consumer Perception, Logit Analysis

\*Abstract Source: Lucinda Theodore, First Place Winner of MANRRS 1996 Graduate Research Competition, Texas A & M University, College Station, Texas.

## **Chapter of the Year Award (COYA)**

*Presented by John Deere*

### **General Description**

The MANRRS Chapter of the Year Award (COYA) competition was designed to promote leadership development among local chapters. Such development should further the goals and objectives of the National Society as well as promote professional growth among local student members.

### **Competencies**

- Project and Goal Focus
- Critical Thinking
- Flexibility
- Team Development

### **Requirements for Entry**

Based on certification by the Membership Committee Chair, each chapter awarded "**Chapter of Excellence**" is eligible to submit an entry form for the COYA competition. A new chapter is defined as a Chapter that has been active for two years or less since the issuance of the original charter and in "**Good Standing**" during the period of activity and at the time of submission of the COYA entry form.

### **Application Procedures**

Changes in contest are notes by an asterisk\*

Report Chapter activities conducted from January 1, 2017 to December 31, 2017. Attach supporting documents as required. **\*Chapter Submission is a total of 15 pages (inclusive of all attachments).**

Submit electronically via the MANRRS Contest Portal by **January 31, 2018**. Late entries will not be accepted. Participants will be notified of receipt of their items by February 5, 2018.

**Save completed packets as a .pdf format prior to submission to maintain proper formatting.**

**Submission Link:** <http://info.manrrs.org/2018-contest-submission>

#### **Submit questions:**

**Carlos Ortiz, Ph.D.**

Superintendent

[csortizm@gmail.com](mailto:csortizm@gmail.com)

#### **AWARDS**

Five Regional Winners - \$200 and a certificate

#### **National COYA Winner:**

\$1,000 monetary award and Trophy

## **Judging Points Guidelines**

### Eligibility

Based on the certification by the Membership Committee Chair, each Chapter in “good standing,” as discussed in the Constitution, is eligible to submit an entry form for the COYA competition.

### A. **Process**

MANRRS “Chapter-of-the-Year” Award (COYA). The National Chapter of the Year Competition will occur in two phases: **PHASE I:** Regional Competition & **PHASE II:** National Competition.

All MANRRS Chapters in good standing may compete in PHASE I. PHASE I will be evaluated by five Judges and the first set of points will be awarded. The Six Regional Winners will advance to the National Competition.

\*Two judging panels shall be formed, the first will be comprised of the initial five judges. A second tier of three judges will evaluate the top six chapter regional packets

### B. **Application Procedures**

1. Complete the Contest Submission Form.
2. Attach the supporting The COYA Application /Annual Report. All entries must be RECEIVED, by January 31, 2018. Late entries will not be accepted. Chapters will be notified of their participation at the National Contest Superintendent by March 2, 2018.

### C. **Regional**

Preliminary round of judging for all COYA entries shall be based on a regional competition. The regional judging panel will evaluate entries from all six regions to determine the top winner from each region. Judging of the entries will be completed by Feb 28, 2018. The Chapter with the highest score in each region will be designated the “*Outstanding Chapter of the Region.*” All competing Chapters will receive a letter announcing the Regional COYA winners. The regional score will advance with the chapter as a component of the National Competition.

### D. **National**

1. The COYA finalists will be comprised of each winners from the six regions. This will form the participants in the COYA competition at the national level.
2. A second tier of three judges will evaluate the top six chapter regional packets\*
3. The Annual Report Scores, tally’s from both judging panels and the Presentation/Interviews at the National Conference which will include first and second tier judging panels, will determine the National COYA winner.

### E. **Reporting Dates**

The dates for the activities shall be from January 1<sup>st</sup> to December 31<sup>st</sup> of the previous year. For example, the 2018 COYA will be based on the dates of January 1, 2017 to December 31, 2017.

### F. **Club Activities and Involvement Report**

The Club Activity and Involvement Report is the Chapter’s Annual Plan of Work and Calendar of Activities for the year. This report should be in chronological order and should list all activities, events, meetings that the club participated in or hosted. It can be in either list form or in calendar form.

## **Guidelines for Chapter of the Year Award Annual Report**

The Annual Reports for each club must follow these guidelines:

1. Contents of the Annual Report will be from January 1, 2017 to December 31, 2017.
2. The Annual Report will be limited to a maximum of 15-typed pages. This may include charts and pertinent pictures. Appendices with the Chapter's pictures, flyers, etc.
3. White background
4. Annual Report must be separate in a standard 8 ½" x 11" size in a **single pdf file**.
5. Must include a cover page with the following information (Not included in the 15 pp):
  - a. Chapter's Name
  - b. Region
  - c. Year of Annual Report
  - d. MANRRS Logo
6. All titles of sections must be in 14-point black font, bold, underlined.
7. All contents must be in 12-point black font.

## **Criteria for Judging Annual Report**

### **Section 1 – Building Chapter Membership (10 points)**

- Club organization – Chapter Officers
- Overview of recruitment activities
- Chart with membership by year in school and corresponding percentages (e.g. 20 freshman out of 100 members = 20%)
- Special awards for outstanding members
- Brief description of major club activities or events that define the club
- Overview of guest speakers who visited the club
- Brief summary of the program content and key points
- Number of people attending the general meetings
- Overview of communications, including newsletters, reports, and presentations about chapter activities to:
  - Student members
  - faculty and college administrators
  - industry and alumni

### **Section 2 – Leadership Development (15 points)**

- Activities that promote and develop leadership among members.
- Activities that promote and develop leadership among officers.
- Activities or events that promote and develop leadership among the college and university.

### **Section 3 – Community Service (15 points)**

- Participation in activities or events hosted by the organization.
- Participation in activities or events sponsored by the college or university
- Participation in activities with larger community/ outreach and number served may be reported

Section 4 – Promotion of the National Society (15 points)

- National Conference
- Regional Workshop
- Participation in National Office positions

Section 5 – Fund Raising and Financial Management (10 points)

- Overview of fund raising activities
- Brief financial report of income, expenses, and balance

Section 6 – Organization/Creativity (10 points)

- Layout/Design/Presentation
- Clarity/Legibility
- Grammatically correct

Section 7 – Oral Presentation (25 points)

This section is to be determined by the club. It can include pictures of events, samples of newsletters, special articles written about the club, etc.; anything that you feel can help show or explain to the judges what your club is about. Pictures, flyers, etc. may be attached in the Appendix.

**Awarding of Points**

Determined by the Annual Report (75 points) and Oral Presentation/Interview (25 points). Points shall be awarded based on the following scale:

**A. Annual Report - 75 points**

- **Building Chapter Membership - 10 points**

Examples: Internet newsgroups, new students' night, activity fairs, etc.

- Club Meetings - Clubs are expected to hold regular meetings throughout the year.
- Executive Meetings - Clubs are expected to hold regular executive meetings.
- Club Events - This category is to include any club events or activities that were hosted by the club. It could include social or professional events that the club sponsored or in which it was directly involved.
- College Activities - These include events that were hosted by the University or College in which your Chapter participated.

- **Leadership Development - 15 points**

Examples: Etiquette workshop, mentoring program, time management seminar, etc.

- **Community Service - 15 points (Point allocation 5pt)**

Examples: food drives, Adopt-A-Highway, volunteer host for the college, etc.

- **Promotion of the National Society - 15 points**

Examples: chapter banquet, national conference, web pages, etc.

- **Fundraising and Financial Management - 10 points**

Examples: fundraising events, grants, sponsorships, etc.

- **Annual Report Creativity - 10 points**

**B. Oral Presentation and Interview - 25 points**

Points will be awarded for the Presentation/Interview at the National Conference.

- Chapters that qualify to present at the National Conference will be given the opportunity to make a presentation and answer questions at the Conference. This score will be determined by the quality of the presentation, the originality of the presentation, its content, and the responses to the questions asked. The focus of the report should be on the accomplishments of the Chapter, the activities in which its members participated during the previous year, and how the Chapter plans to continue its success.
- The presentation will consist of a **10-minute** formal presentation and a **5-minute** question/answer session.

## Sample Chapter of the Year Award (COYA) Regional Judging Score Sheet

The total possible points awarded in the COYA contest is **100** points. According to the submitted Annual Report, a **maximum of 75 points** are awarded. Please use the following scale to score the Annual Report. Please use the specified COYA guidelines and provide brief comments to be shared with contestants.

\*The unshaded areas represent the maximum points available in a given area category

Note\*The remaining **25 points** will be determined by the Presentation/Interview to be held at the 33rd National Conference.

**CHAPTER / INSTITUTION:** \_\_\_\_\_

**YEAR:** \_\_\_\_\_

**JUDGE:** \_\_\_\_\_

**COMPANY:** \_\_\_\_\_

Scores based upon Annual Report (January 1 to December 31)	15	14	13	12	11	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	0
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Building Chapter Membership – Max 10 Pts.</b> <i>Examples: club and executive meetings, club events &amp; activities)</i></p> <p><b>Overview of recruitment activities: 3 pts</b></p> <hr/> <p><b>Description of major club activities/events that define the club: 4 pts</b></p> <hr/> <p><b>Number of people attending the general meetings: 3 pts</b></p>						<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Leadership Development – Max 15 Pts.</b> <i>Examples: workshops, mentor program, time management seminar, etc.</i></p> <p><b>Activities that promote &amp; develop leadership (5 pts)</b> Number of events: 1-4: 1 pt Number of events: 5-9: 3 pts Number of events: 10+: 5 pts</p>											<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><b>Activities that promote &amp; develop leadership among officers (5 pts)</b> Number of events: 1-4: 1 pt Number of events: 5-9: 3 pts Number of events: 10+: 5 pts</p>											<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><b>Participation in National Office positions: 4 pts</b></p>											<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Community Service - Max 20 Pts.</b> <i>Examples: food drives, Adopt-A-Highway, mentoring, etc.</i></p> <p><b>Participation in activities/events hosted by the organization (10 pts)</b> Number of events: 1-4: 5 pts Number of events: 5-9: 7 pts Number of events: 10+: 10 pts</p>						<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><b>Participation in activities/events sponsored by the university (5 pts)</b></p>											<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

	15	14	13	12	11	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	0
Number of events: 1-4: 5 pts Number of events: 5-9: 7 pts Number of events: 10+: 10 pts																
<b>Scores based upon Annual Report</b> (January 1 to December 31)	15	14	13	12	11	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	0
<b>Number of People Served: (Total possible: 5 pts)</b>  Up to 10: 1 pt Up to 20: 2 pts Up to 30: 3 pts Up to 40: 4 pts 50 or more: 5 pts											<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Promotion of the National Society - Max 10 Pts.</b> <i>Examples: chapter banquet, national conference, web pages, etc.</i>  <b>National Conference/Regional Workshop participation: 5 pts</b>  <hr/> <b>Social Media Promotion/Presence: 5 pts</b>						<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Fundraising/ Financial Management Max 10 Pts.</b> <i>Examples: fundraising events, grants, sponsorships, etc.</i>  <b>Overview of fund raising activities: 5 pts</b>											<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Brief financial report of income, expenses, and balance: 5 pts</b>											<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Annual Report Creativity - Max 10 Pts.</b>  <b>Layout/Design/Presentation: 5 pts</b>  <hr/> <b>Clarity/Legibility: 2 pts</b>  <hr/> <b>Grammatically correct: 3 pts</b>						<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Judge's Comments</b>																
<b>Total points (maximum 75)</b>																

## **MANRRS BOWL**

### **General Description**

- a. To increase and test the knowledge of MANRRS Members on MANRRS/MANRRS History and topics with regard to agriculture, natural resources, and related sciences.
- b. To increase and further encourage Regional pride and support of Chapters within Regions, along with friendly competition.

On the following pages, you will find the complete MANRRS Bowl Competition Rules and Guidelines and pertinent information.

Please direct all questions to the MANRRS Bowl Competition Committee at the following address: [grad.president@manrrs.org](mailto:grad.president@manrrs.org).

### **Layout of MANRRS Bowl:**

1. Chapters organize teams within at their respective institutions; and the individual teams will study given topics and sample questions to compete at the Annual Career and Training Conference.
2. Teams will compete against other Chapters, from different or the same Region.
3. Teams will go through a single or double elimination bracket competition depending upon the number of Chapters that are qualified to compete in the competition.
4. The remaining two teams will compete at a closing ceremony to determine the winner and the overall title of MANRRS Bowl Champions for that year.
5. Participants on the MANRRS Bowl teams are eligible to compete for only two consecutive years.
6. As a result, an individual is ineligible to win MANRRS Bowl more than once. Institutions **can** participate in future competitions, but the individuals of the winning team are not eligible to participate. The new individuals form a new team from the winning institution. However, alternates of the winning team who did not participate in the competition can compete in future MANRRS Bowl Competitions.

### **Participants & Eligibility:**

Any official MANRRS, Undergraduate or Graduate student member, is eligible to participate on one team in a given year if that individual has not won a previous MANRRS Bowl Competition at the Annual Career Fair & Training Conference.

- A. Only institutions with an official MANRRS Chapter are eligible to participate. Chapters must have successfully submitted the Chapter of Excellence packet for the previous year of competition (Schools who are applying for Chapter of Excellence status within that given year are eligible to compete).
- B. Each member of a team must be a MANRRS, Undergraduate or Graduate student, and a registered student at the university he or she is representing during the spring semester.



Students' spring enrollment status will determine their Classification. In order to participate in the MANRRS Bowl, students must be in good academic standing.

- C. Teams must consist of four students and three alternates (optional).
  - a. We highly encourage graduate student participation; however, a team cannot have more than two graduate students per team.
  - b. One team member will be designated the captain.
  - c. Chapters designate who will serve in this capacity. This person will serve as the main liaison between the MANRRS Bowl Committee and their Chapter.

**How to Participate:**

Teams are required to submit the following to be eligible for competition at the Annual Career Fair & Training Conference MANRRS Bowl Competition:

- A. Submission packet includes the following two documents
  - a. Application (.pdf document)
    - 1. Team Captain Name
    - 2. Contact Information (mobile and email)
    - 3. University
    - 4. Team Name and Team Members' Names and Classification (FR, JR, etc.)
    - 5. Alternate Team Members' Names and Classification
    - 6. Statement of Interest (250 words or less): *How will your chapter benefit from participating in the MANRRS Bowl Competition? How will participation benefit your chapter's overall development?*
  - b. Questions and Answers (Excel file)
    - 1. Teams must submit questions and answers (25 total) as part of the team's application.
    - 2. Questions submitted must be short answer and/or multiple choice. True/False and Yes/No, questions are NOT be accepted.
    - 3. Within the 25 questions, teams must cover four categories with a minimum of three questions per category. (see below for example questions/answers)
      - 1. Example question: *Which U.S. federal agency is responsible for regulating meat, poultry and egg products?*
      - 2. Answer: *the Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS)*
- B. Teams must fill out and submit the MANRRS Bowl Application, including the 25 questions by **January 31st at 11:59 pm EST.**

	CATEGORY	QUESTION	ANSWER	SUBMISSION SOURCE	URL
Sample Q&A (1)	MANRRS Trivia/Facts	In which city and state is the National MANRRS Headquarters located?	Atlanta, Georgia	MANRRS website	<a href="http://www.manrs.org">www.manrs.org</a>

**MANRRS Bowl Set-up:**

- A. Single or double elimination challenge at the Annual Career Fair & Training Conference. Elimination will be determined by the amount of teams accepted to compete in the competition.
  - a. (1) Moderator (one of the current or past National student officers or advisors that are not associated with the competing teams will serve in this position)
  - b. (2-3) Judges (Advisors/Professionals who are not associated with any team in the competition)
  - c. (1) Scorekeeper/Timekeeper: (Individual from industry or Jr. MANRRS)
  - d. (3-4) Event set up and take down staff (Jr. MANRRS/National Student Officers)

**Game Set-up:**

- A. The Moderator will provide a set of 21 regular game questions plus 10 tiebreaker questions in separate sealed envelopes, provided by the MANRRS Bowl Competition Committee.
- B. The Committee provide the moderator the sealed envelope 5 minutes prior to the start of the competition, allowing him/her to review the questions at least once before start of competition.
- C. After the moderator has reviewed the questions, he/she will not communicate with anyone, except the MANRRS Bowl Competition Committee.
- D. The moderator will read all 21 questions during the competition.
- E. If neither team correctly answers a question, the moderator will move on the next question.
- F. The moderator shall read the questions in the order in which they appear on the document provided but not in the manner of the sample questions provided to the MANRRS bowl teams prior to competition
  - a. Questions will consist of categories within MANRRS
  - b. The moderator will read the question (following the pre-determined correct numerical order) and the team will buzz in to give their answer.
  - c. Contestants do not have to hear the whole question before they buzz in to give an answer. Once someone buzzes in, the question will no longer be read by the moderator

**Exception:**

- i. If a question read by the moderator is interrupted before the moderator finishes reading it, and the team that buzzes in answers incorrectly, the entire question is re-read for the opposing team and the opposing team will have the opportunity to answer the question.
- ii. A team will have five seconds to begin answering the question the team buzzes in and receives the approval from the moderator to answer the question (the time keeper will moderate this).
- iii. If the correct answer is given, that team receives two points.

- iv. If a wrong answer is given, the competing team will have five seconds to provide the correct answer, if they choose.
- v. Each team has only one chance to answer each question
- vi. Providing an incorrect answer does not result in a point reduction for either team.
- vii. Team member substitutions may only occur before the start of a round. The team captain cannot be substituted at any time unless he/she is unable to continue the competition.
- viii. Substituting the captain will result in the new replacement captain assuming the position of team captain for the remainder of the competition.

### **Tiebreaker:**

- A. This shall occur if there is a tie at the end of 21 questions asked.
  - a. The tiebreaker will consist of five questions not be opened by the moderator unless a tie occurs at the end of 21 questions asked.
  - b. If a tie occurs, a series of five tiebreaker questions to break the tie is used; the team with the most points after the tiebreaker round wins.
- B. If the first buzzed in team incorrectly answers the question, the other team will have an opportunity to answer. If neither team correctly gets the questions right, the moderator shall move on to the next question, and so on.
- C. For each correct answer during the tiebreaker round, one point will still be awarded

### **Participant Rules:**

- A. Participants cannot bring a calculator, electronic/cellular device, or any scratch paper to the competition. MANRRS Bowl Competition Committee will provide scratch paper. In addition, at the end of each round of play, participants' must discard all notes.
- B. Audience members cannot aid participants at any time. If an audience member shouts out the answer to a question, neither team gains or loses any points for that question, and the moderator discards the question.
- C. The moderator Participants must verbally recognize you before answering any question.
  - a. If an individual proceeds to answer a question before verbal recognition has occurred, deduct one point from their team score.

### **Challenging a Question:**

- A. Any member of a team may initiate a challenge based on the question content or application of the rules.
- B. Challenges must occur before the moderator finishes reading the next question.

- C. You can bring Challenges to the moderator’s attention by stating, “challenge” after the moderator acknowledges you.
- D. Judges have the final ruling on all challenges.
- E. A team may not make more than two unsuccessful challenges per round.
- F. The moderator will discard the question if a challenge is sustained. No team will lose/gain points.

**MANRRS Bowl Categories & Questions:**

- A. Questions are derived from subjects within MANRRS (these being the top majors in MANRRS plus MANRRS Trivia, History, Facts, Constitution, etc.).
- B. A packet of SAMPLE questions and answers are provided to teams prior to the competition.

**The subjects/categories are as follows:**

- 1. MANRRS Trivia
    - a. Constitution
    - b. History
    - c. Facts
  - 2. Agricultural Business/Economics/Finance/Accounting/Business Administration/ Management
  - 3. Animal Science/Veterinary Science
  - 4. Life Sciences (Examples below)
    - a. Biology
    - b. Microbiology
    - c. Food Science
    - d. Ecology
    - e. Environmental Sciences
    - f. Plant & Soil Science
  - 5. Ag Education/Family & Consumer Science
  - 6. Natural Resources (Examples below)
    - a. Forestry
    - b. Fishery & Wildlife Conservation
    - c. Current events
  - 7. Parliamentary Procedure/ Roberts Rules of Order
- C. For MANRRS Bowl Competitions, questions will come from the MANRRS Bowl pool of questions.
  - D. Each year, questions are added to the MANRRS Bowl pool of questions.
  - E. Majority of the questions will come from the questions Chapters submit in their 25 mandatory questions submitted in call for questions before the national conference.
  - F. All questions will be reviewed by MANRRS Bowl Committee members prior to the competition, **January 31, 2018 11:59 pm EST.**

- G. A complete set of questions asked at the national competitions is provided for all teams to add to their pool of questions for review for that year's competition (excluding year one of competition).

### Questions: Point System

- Questions are worth 2 points each
- If questions are answered incorrectly, no points are deducted; however, the other team now has 5 seconds to answer the question, if desired.
- If someone on a team speaks out of turn or disrupts play, the team of which that person is a member, will be deducted 1 point from their total score.

### MANRRS Bowl Officials:

- A. (2) Judges:** Chapter advisors or grad students not associated with the competing teams or professors from a local university:
- a. Judges will serve in such capacity prior to the competition.
  - b. Judges will serve as the individuals who oversee the competition and any such challenges that may arise with questions/rules during the competition.
  - c. Judges are responsible for taking notes on the accuracy and quality of questions that may be up for debate. Submit Questions and comments to the MANRRS Bowl Committee for review.
- B. (1) Moderator:** Current/Past National Student Officers or Advisors within MANRRS not associated with any of the universities in competition:
- a. The moderator will serve in such capacity prior to the competition.
  - b. The moderator is responsible for asking all questions and for designating the first buzzed-in individual to answer the question.
  - c. An answer can be challenged by the moderator and will refer directly and immediately to the judges for a ruling on this matter.
  - d. The moderator will be responsible for making sure that there is no writing down of questions, filming, recording/taping during the competition. The moderator will ask that all such devices be turned off and put away prior to the start of the competition.
- C. (1) Scorekeeper/Timer:** An industry individual participating in the Regional Cluster Workshop/Conference and/or Jr. MANRRS member (no association with the competing teams).
- a. The scorekeeper is in charge keeping score during the game. If there is a question concerning the scorekeepers scoring, the judges shall handle it and they shall provide their final ruling to assist in the progress of the game.
  - b. The timekeeper will keep track of the time between the initial reading of the question and the start of the answer provided by the first buzzed in team. Teams will have 5 seconds to begin answering the question after receiving verbal acknowledgment from the Moderator.

**D. Event set-up and Takedown:**

- a. Jr. MANRRS members/National Student Officers Individuals will be asked to sign-up to help assist with setting up and taking down the rooms that will be used for the Bowl
- b. Rooms will need to be set up according to the Room Set Up Diagram which will be provided for them
- c. Each room needs to have a buzzer system, question and answer set in sealed envelope, scrap paper and pens, stopwatch, tables, and chairs, etc.

**E. Runners:** Jr. MANRRS members/ National Student Officers

- a. Runners will be in charge of making sure teams are at their designated rooms at the appropriate times. They will also be responsible for helping to fill out the official bracket so teams know whom they are competing against and when they are competing.

**F. Communication**

- a. All communication between teams/chapters (specifically the team captain) and the MANRRS Bowl Committee shall be directed to [grad.president@manrrs.org](mailto:grad.president@manrrs.org).

**MANRRS Bowl Application**

- A. The MANRRS Bowl Application can be found via the following link:  
<http://info.manrrs.org/2018-contest-submission>
- B. MANRRS Bowl Question and Answer Template is located on the MANRRS website. (Please remember this is due as part of your MANRRS Bowl Application and must be submitted by January 31, 2018 at 11:59 pm EST)

**Important Dates and Deadlines:**

1. Deadline for teams to submit their MANRRS Bowl Application: **January 31, 2018**
2. Teams will be notified about their status in the competition on or before: **March 2, 2018**
3. Annual Career Fair & Training Conference Competition Possible Rounds (*times subject to change*):
  - a. Round 1= 1<sup>st</sup> evening of Annual Career Fair & Training Conference – April 5, 2018 - 8:30 PM -10:30 PM
  - b. Round 2 = 2<sup>nd</sup> day of Annual Career Fair & Training Conference – April 6, 2018 – 1:30 PM – 3:30 PM
  - c. Final Round = 3<sup>rd</sup> day of Annual Career Fair & Training Conference – April 7, 2018 – 12:30 PM – 1:00 PM.

# Undergraduate and Graduate Oral Research Contest

## General Description

These sessions provide an opportunity for undergraduate and graduate students to gain experience and exposure before an audience, while highlighting their research.

The competition has two divisions:

- Division I – Biological, Chemical, and Physical Sciences
- Division II – Education, Social Sciences, and Business

## Competencies

- Creative Thinking
- Communication
- Self-Development
- Critical Thinking

## Requirements for Entry

Presenters are required to be undergraduate or graduate student members and must be in attendance at the conference. Entrants' names must appear on the national register in the office of the membership chair by December 31<sup>st</sup>. No waiver of conference registration fees will be granted to contest participants. The student's chapter advisor or faculty research advisor must certify that the research is the work of the presenter. Each presentation will be limited to 10 minutes, including two minutes for questions and answers. **PLEASE FOLLOW THE GUIDELINES FOR PREPARATION OF YOUR ABSTRACT.** All abstracts must be submitted electronically via the MANRRS website Contest Submission Page by the deadline. All abstracts should be in Microsoft Word format. The Superintendent reserves the right to reject a submission if it does not meet the established guidelines as shown by the sample abstract provided

## Application Procedures

All entries must be received by 11:59 PM EST on January 31<sup>st</sup>. Participants will be notified by February 5<sup>th</sup> of the receipt of their abstract. Contestants are asked to be familiar with their equipment and usage. A penalty (deduction of three points) will be imposed on those who do not know how to use their equipment properly. Detailed application procedures are attached.

**Submission Link:** <http://info.manrrs.org/2018-contest-submission>

## Awards

1<sup>st</sup> Place - \$300; 2<sup>nd</sup> Place - \$200; 3<sup>rd</sup> Place - \$100

<b>CONTEST SUPERINTENDENTS</b>	
Undergraduate Division I - Biological, Chemical, and Physical Sciences  Candiss Williams, Ph.D. USDA NRCS Phone: (402) 309-5264 Email: cwilliam78@gmail.com	Undergraduate Division II - Education, Social Sciences, and Business  Graduate Division II – Education, Social Sciences, and Business
Graduate Division I - Biological, Chemical, and Physical Sciences  Jodi P. Williams, Ph.D. USDA - National Institute of Food & Agriculture Phone: (202) 720-6145 Email: jwilliams@nifa.usda.gov	Lorraine Weatherspoon, Ph.D. Michigan State University Phone: (517) 355-8474, ext. 136 Email: weathe43@anr.msu.edu

## Contest Evaluation

The abstract will be evaluated prior to selecting the finalists who will compete at the National Conference. The abstract provides a brief overview of your research in no more than 300 words, arranged in a single paragraph. The abstract should briefly state the research problem, how the problem was evaluated (methods), what was observed/found (results), and how the results are related to the research problem (discussion and conclusion). The abstract should stand on its own and NOT include citations or references within the abstract.

Abstracts submitted will be evaluated by at least three judges on the content of the abstract. The abstracts will be assigned 0-50 points based on:

- (10 pt.) Proper spelling, grammar, complete sentences, readability
- (10 pt.) Well written introduction
- (10 pt.) Methods are discussed
- (10 pt.) Results are summarized
- (10 pt.) Conclusions are presented

<b>GRADING RUBRIC FOR RESEARCH ABSTRACT</b>	<b><u>6 - 10</u></b>	<b><u>1 - 5</u></b>	<b><u>0</u></b>
	<b>Fully meets all requirements and expectations</b>	<b>Partially meets requirements</b>	<b>Does not meet minimum requirements</b>
<p><b>Mechanics.</b> The abstract contains proper spelling, grammar, complete sentences, syntax, diction, and is readable.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Contains no spelling, usage, grammar, or mechanics mistakes.</li> <li>• Defines all acronyms except the very common ones.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Contains two or fewer mistakes in grammar, usage, spelling, or mechanics.</li> <li>• Contains one or more undefined acronym or key terms.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Contains three or more mistakes</li> <li>• Contains numerous undefined terms.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Introduction.</b> The abstract briefly states the subject of investigation purpose of project and its context.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gives concise, thorough introduction to provide context and background of project.</li> <li>• Includes statement of the problem being studied.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Does not define key terms or uses them incorrectly.</li> <li>• Does not give enough information or provides unclear context or background.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Contains no introduction.</li> <li>• Starts with either methods or results.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Methods.</b> The abstract identifies how the problem was studied and defines all jargon or acronyms.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Discusses what tests/procedures were used in an organized, clear, and concise manner.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Discusses methods, but is disorganized, vague, or verbose, or uses lots of jargon.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Contains no discussion of the method or procedure.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Results.</b> The abstract has provided an explanation of what was discovered or produced using concise and specific detail.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Refers and connects results to the methods.</li> <li>• Presents results independently of methods.</li> <li>• Gives a justification if no data/results are possible.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Merely states results [Qualitatively].</li> <li>• If no results are possible, then only says "No results."</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gives no results or does not even mention results.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Conclusion.</b> The abstract interprets the results, evaluates what the results mean to the project, and defines the context within the field.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Clearly interprets results and concisely reflects the purpose of the investigation.</li> <li>• Suggests further work (if applicable).</li> <li>• Provides meaning and context to work.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reflects the purpose or only suggests further research without providing context.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provides no conclusion.</li> </ul>



Oral Research Presentation Rubric

Category	Expert 9-10	Proficient 6-8	Apprentice 3-5	Novice 0-2	SCORE
Presentation of Research	<p><b>Overall</b>, the problem, goal/hypothesis, methods, results, conclusions are <i>very clear</i>; main points are <i>thoroughly and concisely</i> presented.</p> <p><b>Introduction/background</b> gives <i>very clear</i> perspective of problem.</p> <p><b>Hypotheses/aims</b> are <i>very clearly stated and highly relevant</i> to the problem.</p> <p><b>Research methods</b> are <i>very</i> appropriate for testing the hypothesis and <i>clearly</i> described; statistical methods/analysis are used and <i>clearly</i> described.</p> <p><b>Results</b> are clear and very relevant to the aim of the study. Discussion of results is clear, concise, and correct. Very apparent understanding of limitations and unanswered questions.</p> <p><b>Discussion and Conclusion</b> is very related to the aim and results. Does an excellent job putting the results in the context of the problem</p>	<p><b>Overall</b>, the problem, goal/hypothesis, methods, results, conclusions are <i>generally clear</i>; main points <i>adequately and concisely</i> presented.</p> <p><b>Introduction/ background</b> gives <i>good</i> perspective of the problem.</p> <p><b>Hypotheses/aims</b> are <i>generally</i> stated and <i>relevant</i> to the problem.</p> <p><b>Research methods</b> are <i>generally</i> appropriate for testing the hypothesis and <i>well</i> described; statistical analysis/methods are used and <i>generally</i> described.</p> <p><b>Results</b> presented are mostly relevant to the study aims. Discussion of results is clear, concise, and correct. Some understanding of limitations and unanswered questions.</p> <p><b>Discussion and Conclusion</b> mostly relates to the aim and the results. Does a good job putting results in context of the problem</p>	<p><b>Overall</b>, the problem, goal/hypothesis, methods, results, conclusions are <i>marginally clear</i>; some of the main points are unclear, missing or not concisely presented.</p> <p><b>Introduction/background</b> gives <i>satisfactory</i> perspective of the problem.</p> <p><b>Hypotheses/aims</b> are <i>satisfactory</i> and <i>somewhat relevant</i> to the problem.</p> <p><b>Research methods</b> are <i>somewhat</i> appropriate for testing the hypothesis, and <i>generally</i> described; statistical analysis/methods are used and <i>generally</i> described.</p> <p><b>Results</b> presented are generally related to the aim. Discussion of results is clear, concise, and correct. Little understanding of limitations and unanswered questions.</p> <p><b>Discussion and Conclusion</b>, are satisfactorily related /relevant to the aim and results and there is an attempt to put results in context with problem.</p>	<p><b>Overall</b>, the problem, goal/hypothesis, methods, results, conclusions are <i>unclear</i> and <i>poorly</i> presented; main points are not sufficiently presented or missing.</p> <p><b>Introduction/background</b> is <i>missing or offers no</i> perspective to the problem.</p> <p><b>Hypotheses/aims</b> are <i>missing or not relevant</i> to the problem</p> <p><b>Research methods</b> are <i>not appropriate</i> for testing the hypothesis and/or poorly described; statistical analysis/methods are missing or not described.</p> <p><b>Results</b> are not satisfactorily related to the aim or presented missing or presented incorrectly. Very little or NO understanding of limitations and unanswered questions.</p> <p><b>Discussion and Conclusion</b> are missing or not related/relevant to aim or results and does not put results in context of problem.</p> <p><b>Evaluation rubric continues on next page</b></p>	

Category	Expert 9-10	Proficient 6-8	Apprentice 3-5	Novice 0-2	SCORE
Visual Attractiveness, Organization, And Mechanics	<p>Poster is <i>very</i> visually appealing; not cluttered; colors and patterns <i>enhance</i> readability</p> <p>Content <i>clearly</i> arranged in a logical sequence so that viewer can follow order without narration.</p> <p>Font sizes/variations are <i>consistent</i> and appropriately support readability</p> <p>Graphics (e.g. tables, figures, etc.) are <i>very</i> readable, <i>clearly</i> labeled, engaging; significantly enhance the text.</p> <p>There are no typos, spelling and/or grammar mistakes.</p>	<p>Poster is <i>generally</i> visually appealing; not cluttered; colors and patterns <i>support</i> readability</p> <p>Content is arranged in <i>somewhat logical</i> sequence but the viewer can follow order without narration.</p> <p>Font sizes/variations are <i>inconsistent</i> but <b>are not</b> distracting to the readability</p> <p>Graphics (e.g. tables, figures, etc.) are readable, labeled; generally, enhance the text</p> <p>Minimal no more than (2) typos, spelling and/or grammar mistakes.</p>	<p>Poster is <i>fairly</i> visually appealing; it is cluttered; colors and patterns <i>detract</i> from readability</p> <p>Content is <i>poorly</i> arranged; somewhat confusing to viewer in understanding order without narration.</p> <p>Font sizes/variations are <i>inconsistent</i> and somewhat distracting to readability</p> <p>Graphics (e.g., tables, figures, etc.) <i>generally</i> readable; some labels are <i>incorrect</i> or <i>missing</i>; somewhat enhance the text</p> <p>Noticeable (3) typos, spelling and/or grammar mistakes.</p>	<p>Poster is <i>not</i> visually appealing; cluttered; colors and patterns <i>hinder</i> readability</p> <p>Content arrangement is <i>non-apparent</i> and confusing; viewer cannot understand order without narration</p> <p>Font sizes/variations are inconsistent and completely distracting to readability</p> <p>Graphics (e.g., tables, figures, etc.) are <i>not</i> readable or <i>none</i> are clearly labeled; <i>do not</i> enhance the text</p> <p>Unacceptable (4 or more) typos, spelling, and/or grammar mistakes.</p>	
Elocution	<p>Overall delivery (posture, gesture, eye contact, and vocal expressiveness) make the presentation compelling.</p> <p>Speaker appears <i>very</i> prepared, is polished, and confident, uses a clear voice, correct pronunciations and appropriate terminology</p> <p>Maintains eye contact- with no dependence on notes.</p>	<p>Overall delivery (posture, gesture, eye contact, and vocal expressiveness) make the presentation interesting.</p> <p>Speaker appears <i>generally</i> prepared, is comfortable; uses a clear voice; correct pronunciation for most word and generally uses appropriate terminology</p> <p>Frequent eye contact with little reliance on notes.</p>	<p>Overall delivery (posture, gesture, eye contact, and vocal expressiveness) make the presentation clear.</p> <p>Speaker appears <i>somewhat</i> prepared and tentative. Voice is low, correctly pronounces most terms and generally uses appropriate terminology</p> <p>Occasional eye contact with considerable reliance on notes.</p>	<p>Delivery (posture, gesture, eye contact, and vocal expressiveness) detract from the understandability of the presentation.</p> <p>Speaker appears unprepared and uncomfortable. Voice is low incorrectly pronounces terms does not use appropriate terminology</p> <p>No eye contact, with complete reliance on notes.</p>	
Handling of Questions	Presenter is at ease with <i>all</i> questions and provided elaborations through responses.	Presenter answers <i>all or most</i> of the questions with ease <i>but</i> fails to elaborate in responses.	Presenter is able to answer only rudimentary questions and offers not elaborations.	Presenter is unable to provide answers to any questions.	
Comments					

## **Undergraduate and Graduate Research Poster Contest**

### **General Description**

This session provides an opportunity for graduate and undergraduate students to gain experience and exposure before an audience, while highlighting the research in which they are currently involved. The student's faculty Research Advisor must certify that the research is the work of the presenter. Posters can be entered as "Competitive" or "Non-Competitive." Entries cannot be duplicated and entered in the Student Oral Research Contest.

The competition has two divisions:

- Division I – Biological, Chemical, and Physical Sciences
- Division II – Education, Social Sciences, and Business

### **Competencies**

- Creative Thinking
- Driving Results
- Self-Development
- Critical Thinking

### **Requirements**

Presenters are required to be graduate or undergraduate student members at the time of the conference and must attend the national conference. Entrants' names must appear on the national membership register by **January 31, 2018**. There will be no waiver of conference registration fees for participants.

Ph.D. candidates are allowed to compete competitively in the Poster Research Contest.

A Power Point of the poster's graphics will also need to be submitted the contest superintendent prior to the conference.

### **Application Procedures**

The deadline for entries is **11:59 PM EST on January 31, 2018**. Submit entries instructed on the Student Research Poster Contest Abstract Form. Selected contest participants will be notified by March 2, 2018.

**Faxed or emailed submissions are NOT accepted (NO Exceptions).**

Submission Link: <http://info.manrrs.org/2018-contest-submission>

### **Awards**

1<sup>st</sup> Place - \$300; 2<sup>nd</sup> Place - \$200; 3<sup>rd</sup> Place - \$100

### **Contest Superintendent:**

Graduate Submissions and Undergraduate Submissions

**Marcus Coleman**

MANRRS Forestry, Ecology and Wildlife Program  
Southern University and A&M University

Tel. (225) 771-3922

Email: [marcus\\_coleman@subr.edu](mailto:marcus_coleman@subr.edu)

## **Research Poster Competition**

The MANRRS research poster competition contains two divisions. All participants will have a designated time to be present their poster for attendees to learn more about their research:

- Undergraduate Symposium – all undergraduate students
- Graduate Symposium – all students pursuing master's and doctoral students

Each symposium has two divisions:

- Division I – Biological, Chemical, and Physical Sciences
- Division II – Education, Social Sciences, and Business

## **Competition/Symposium Guidelines**

The graduate and undergraduate research poster competitions are judged separately by independent judges. After the submission deadline, abstracts in each competition are evaluated, and the top 10 abstracts in each competition proceed to the national competition. The national conference features two sections for research posters:

- **Competitive Division:**  
Features the top 10 submitted abstracts/posters from the undergraduate and graduate competitions in each discipline division. Participants will be scheduled a time to present their information. Presenters in this division are eligible for cash prizes.
- **Non-Competitive Division:**  
This symposium is designed for research poster submissions that do not make the top 10 in their respective competitions. This division provides a forum for students to get feedback from professionals and peers. Participants will be scheduled a time to present their information. Participants in this division are not eligible for cash prizes.

## **Abstract Requirements**

Abstracts must be prepared according to the general guidelines for MANRRS abstract submissions. Research poster abstracts should be prepared as follows:

- The author presenting the paper must be denoted by an asterisk (\*) at the end of his/her full name. The College/University and location should be listed following the name.
- Abstract text should cite quantitative data from representative experiments.
- Do not include graphs, charts, plots, tables, illustrations or references in the abstract.
- Enter three keywords to describe the project. At least one of the keywords must be taken from the title of the paper.
- Abstracts will be evaluated by a panel of judge sand scored on a 0-25 scale.

## **Poster Requirements**

Posters must be prepared according to the following general guidelines:

- **The posters need to be 3 feet high by 4 feet wide (36 x 48).** The poster must be carefully planned, clear and concise. It should contain a brief statement of the purpose of the work, experimental methodology and design, and the major results of the findings and their implications.
- Each poster will be given a poster number it will be placed at the top left corner of the placement space.
- Lettering for the heading must be at least 1 inch in height. Lettering for authors, and sponsoring institution must be at least ¾ inch high. All other type must be at least ¼ inch high. The poster must be readable from a distance of 4 or more feet. The text should be printed from a laser printer, in a font size large enough to read from that distance. When preparing the poster, do not use free hand printed lettering.

- Numerals and letters, included in the figures and tables, must be at least ¼ inch high. The final size any figure or table will depend on the complexity of the information, but it should not be less than 8" x 10". Back lighted photographs, sound or projection equipment, freestanding displays are prohibited.
- These requirements are for both the competitive and non-competitive divisions. Posters in the competitive division are scored on a 0-75 scale. Presenters DO NOT submit a copy of the poster with the initial submission.

### **Conference/Symposium Tips**

- Presenters are assigned an ID number. At the conference symposium, posters are to be placed on the display stand corresponding to the presenter's ID number. Display boards are provided. DO NOT print the ID number on the actual poster.
- Presenters must provide their own materials, such as stickpins or any other materials needed to set up their poster. The contest superintendent will NOT provide supplies.
- Presenters must be sure to have all their materials prepared before they leave home. The time allocated during the conference is not the appropriate time for preparing or designing the poster.
- Presenters should not stand directly in front of their poster, please allow viewing space for spectators and judges.
- Presenters should carry their poster using tubular packaging or a portfolio case. It is not a good idea to mail posters to the conference, to avoid potential damages to the poster.
- Presenters must come prepared with any relevant handouts they may wish to share (such as a copy of the poster printed on 8.5" x 11" paper) and business cards.
- Presenters must be prepared with a (brief) one and a half minute overview and discussion of their project.

### **Entry Information**

After the submission deadline, the contest superintendent, who reserves the right to reject any abstract submission, will review all submissions. The main criteria that will be considered by the contest superintendent when reviewing abstracts for acceptance are:

1. Strict adherence to formatting guidelines
2. A minimum of two authors in the author block (a submission with one author will result in an automatic rejection)
3. Demonstration of a scientific problem (submissions must contain hypothesis and/or statement of problem, methods/methodology used, the results, and a conclusion)
4. Writing quality

### **Appeal of Decision**

All decisions of the contest superintendent are final. There is no appeal process or opportunity to resubmit once an abstract is rejected. Therefore, students are encouraged to closely follow the instructions and view the sample abstract in the contest guidelines prior to submission. After the initial review, abstracts are then forwarded to the respective judges.

### **Submission Guidelines**

The deadline for entries is **January 31, 2018 at 11:59 pm EST**. Submit Research Poster Abstract in Microsoft Word Format.

Submissions not in these formats are unacceptable nor are late submissions accepted. Errors in submission (i.e. submitted entry to wrong contest superintendent or division) or other excuses (i.e. my advisor was not available) are not valid. Submit by the deadline to the proper contest level and division.

**Poster Research Presentation Rubric**

Category	Expert 9-10	Proficient 6-8	Apprentice 3-5	Novice 0-2	SCORE
<b>Presentation of Research</b>	<p><b>Overall</b>, the problem, goal/ hypothesis, methods, results, conclusions are <i>very clear</i>; main points are <i>thoroughly and concisely</i> presented.</p> <p><b>Introduction/background</b> gives <i>very clear</i> perspective of problem.</p> <p><b>Hypotheses/aims</b> are <i>very clearly stated</i> and <i>highly relevant</i> to the problem.</p> <p><b>Research methods</b> are <i>very</i> appropriate for testing the hypothesis and <i>clearly</i> described; statistical methods/analysis are used and <i>clearly</i> described.</p> <p><b>Results</b> are clear and very relevant to the aim of the study. Discussion of results is clear, concise, and correct. Very apparent understanding of limitations and unanswered questions.</p> <p><b>Discussion and Conclusion</b> is very related to the aim and results. Does an excellent job putting the results in the context of the problem.</p>	<p><b>Overall</b>, the problem, goal/ hypothesis, methods, results, conclusions are <i>generally clear</i>; main points <i>adequately and concisely</i> presented.</p> <p><b>Introduction/ background</b> gives <i>good</i> perspective of the problem.</p> <p><b>Hypotheses/aims</b> are <i>generally</i> stated and <i>relevant</i> to the problem.</p> <p><b>Research methods</b> are <i>generally</i> appropriate for testing the hypothesis and <i>well</i> described; statistical analysis/methods are used and <i>generally</i> described.</p> <p><b>Results</b> presented are mostly relevant to the study aims. Discussion of results is clear, concise, and correct. Some understanding of limitations and unanswered questions.</p> <p><b>Discussion and Conclusion</b> mostly relates to the aim and the results. Does a good job putting results in context of the problem.</p>	<p><b>Overall</b>, the problem, goal/ hypothesis, methods, results, conclusions are <i>marginally clear</i>; some of the main points are unclear, missing or not concisely presented.</p> <p><b>Introduction/background</b> gives <i>satisfactory</i> perspective of the problem.</p> <p><b>Hypotheses/aims</b> are <i>satisfactory</i> and <i>somewhat relevant</i> to the problem.</p> <p><b>Research methods</b> are <i>somewhat</i> appropriate for testing the hypothesis, and <i>generally</i> described; statistical analysis/methods are used and <i>generally</i> described.</p> <p><b>Results</b> presented are generally related to the aim. Discussion of results is clear, concise, and correct. Little understanding of limitations and unanswered questions.</p> <p><b>Discussion and Conclusion</b>, are satisfactorily related /relevant to the aim and results and there is an attempt to put results in context with problem.</p>	<p><b>Overall</b>, the problem, goal/ hypothesis, methods, results, conclusions are <i>unclear</i> and <i>poorly</i> presented; main points are not sufficiently presented or missing.</p> <p><b>Introduction/background</b> is <i>missing or offers no</i> perspective to the problem.</p> <p><b>Hypotheses/aims</b> are <i>missing or not relevant</i> to the problem</p> <p><b>Research methods</b> are <i>not appropriate</i> for testing the hypothesis and/or poorly described; statistical analysis/methods are missing or not described.</p> <p><b>Results</b> are not satisfactorily related to the aim or presented missing or presented incorrectly. Very little or NO understanding of limitations and unanswered questions.</p> <p><b>Discussion and Conclusion</b> are missing or not related/relevant to aim or results and does not put results in context of problem.</p> <p><b>Evaluation rubric continues on next page</b></p>	

Category	Expert 9-10	Proficient 6-8	Apprentice 3-5	Novice 0-2	SCORE
Visual Attractiveness, Organization, And Mechanics	<p>Poster is <i>very</i> visually appealing; not cluttered; colors and patterns <i>enhance</i> readability</p> <p>Content <i>clearly</i> arranged in a logical sequence so that viewer can follow order without narration.</p> <p>Font sizes/variations are <i>consistent</i> and appropriately support readability</p> <p>Graphics (e.g. tables, figures, etc.) are <i>very</i> readable, <i>clearly</i> labeled, engaging; significantly enhance the text.</p> <p>There are no typos, spelling and/or grammar mistakes.</p>	<p>Poster is <i>generally</i> visually appealing; not cluttered; colors and patterns <i>support</i> readability</p> <p>Content is arranged in <i>somewhat logical</i> sequence but the viewer can follow order without narration.</p> <p>Font sizes/variations are <i>inconsistent</i> but <b>are not</b> distracting to the readability</p> <p>Graphics (e.g. tables, figures, etc.) are readable, labeled; generally, enhance the text</p> <p>Minimal no more than (2) typos, spelling and/or grammar mistakes.</p>	<p>Poster is <i>fairly</i> visually appealing; it is cluttered; colors and patterns <i>detract</i> from readability</p> <p>Content is <i>poorly</i> arranged; somewhat confusing to viewer in understanding order without narration.</p> <p>Font sizes/variations are <i>inconsistent</i> and somewhat distracting to readability</p> <p>Graphics (e.g., tables, figures, etc.) <i>generally</i> readable; some labels are <i>incorrect</i> or <i>missing</i>; somewhat enhance the text</p> <p>Noticeable (3) typos, spelling and/or grammar mistakes.</p>	<p>Poster is <i>not</i> visually appealing; cluttered; colors and patterns <i>hinder</i> readability</p> <p>Content arrangement is <i>non-apparent</i> and confusing; viewer cannot understand order without narration</p> <p>Font sizes/variations are inconsistent and completely distracting to readability</p> <p>Graphics (e.g., tables, figures, etc.) are <i>not</i> readable or <i>none</i> are clearly labeled; <i>do not</i> enhance the text</p> <p>Unacceptable (4 or more) typos, spelling, and/or grammar mistakes.</p>	
Elocution	<p>Overall delivery (posture, gesture, eye contact, and vocal expressiveness) make the presentation compelling.</p> <p>Speaker appears <i>very</i> prepared, is polished, and confident, uses a clear voice, correct pronunciations and appropriate terminology</p> <p>Maintains eye contact- with no dependence on notes.</p>	<p>Overall delivery (posture, gesture, eye contact, and vocal expressiveness) make the presentation interesting.</p> <p>Speaker appears <i>generally</i> prepared, is comfortable; uses a clear voice; correct pronunciation for most word and generally uses appropriate terminology</p> <p>Frequent eye contact with little reliance on notes.</p>	<p>Overall delivery (posture, gesture, eye contact, and vocal expressiveness) make the presentation clear.</p> <p>Speaker appears <i>somewhat</i> prepared and tentative. Voice is low, correctly pronounces most terms and generally uses appropriate terminology</p> <p>Occasional eye contact with considerable reliance on notes.</p>	<p>Delivery (posture, gesture, eye contact, and vocal expressiveness) detract from the understandability of the presentation.</p> <p>Speaker appears unprepared and uncomfortable. Voice is low incorrectly pronounces terms does not use appropriate terminology</p> <p>No eye contact, with complete reliance on notes.</p>	
Handling of Questions	Presenter is at ease with <i>all</i> questions and provided elaborations through responses.	Presenter answers <i>all or most</i> of the questions with ease <i>but</i> fails to elaborate in responses.	Presenter is able to answer only rudimentary questions and offers not elaborations.	Presenter is unable to provide answers to any questions.	
Comments					

## National Essay Contest

### General Description

This contest provides an opportunity for students to gain experience in expressing themselves through writing. Students will explore North America; choose a country and a critical global challenge to research. Students are required to propose their own solution to the challenge in the country of your choice. Through this contest, participants will discover careers paths and opportunities in STEM, food, agriculture, and policy as well as analyze how global trends affect a country and its people, economy, environment, health, and way of life.

### COMPETENCIES

- Creation and Development
- Communication for Results
- Producing clear, concise, logical grammar
- Organization and Structure

### Requirements for Entry

The national essay contest will be open to undergraduate students who are current members of MANRRS through chapter membership or individual membership. Entrants' names must appear on the national register in the office of the membership chair by **December 31<sup>st</sup>**. Essays are required to be submitted via the MANRRS Contest Submission Page.

### Application Procedures

All entries must be RECEIVED by 11:59 PM EST on **January 31, 2018**. Electronic submission is required. Submit essays as instructed on the attached pages. Participants will be notified upon receipt of their packets by February 5. Direct any questions to the contest superintendent.

**Submission Link** - <http://info.manrrs.org/2018-contest-submission>

### Awards

1<sup>st</sup> Place - \$300; 2<sup>nd</sup> Place - \$200; 3<sup>rd</sup> Place - \$100

### Superintendent

**Taquila Monroe**

E-mail: [tqgibbs@live.com](mailto:tqgibbs@live.com)



### **Instructions for How to Write your Paper**

Objective: Select ONE country in North America and ONE of the key factors affecting food security (see Step 2) as the focus of your research. You will then prepare your paper using the guided questions (see Step 3), presenting your research findings and recommendations for increasing food production and availability in ways that improve food security and household livelihoods in your chosen country.

#### **STEP 2. SELECT ONE KEY FACTOR AFFECTING FOOD SECURITY FROM THE FOLLOWING:**

- **Climate Volatility:** Responding to climate volatility by adapting agricultural practices and policies to increase carbon sequestration and support ecological resilience to erratic weather, rising temperatures/drought, saltwater intrusion, and shifting plant diseases and pest infestations.
- **Sustainable Agriculture:** Developing and implementing sustainable agricultural practices (no-till, crop rotation, integrated pest management, etc.) to combat erosion, desertification and soil depletion and reduce pesticide/herbicide use and minimizing environmental degradation associated with industrial agricultural practices (improved animal waste disposal, conservation buffers, etc.).
- **Farm to Market:** Improving access to markets through infrastructure development (roads and railways, internet, mobile technologies, electricity).

#### **STEP 3. ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS TO DEVELOP YOUR PAPER:**

1. Choose ONE of the country from North America as the focus of your research.
2. Define a typical subsistence farm family or poor urban family in your country:
  - a. family size and composition, diet, education and access to health care;
  - b. farm size, crops grown, and agricultural practices (if researching a farm family) or employment and wage, and where they typically purchase food and have access to private or community gardens (if researching an urban family); and
  - c. major barriers to improving agricultural productivity, employment and earning a living wage, and gaining access to food markets and adequate nutrition.
3. Select ONE of the key factors listed under Step 2 as the focus of your research.
4. Answer the following questions to develop your paper and understand how your selected factor affects food security in your country:
  - a. How does the factor you selected affect agricultural productivity, household income or food availability and quality in your chosen country? Discuss the following:
    - i. What role does the factor presently play in causing your family to not produce enough food, earn sufficient income to purchase food, or access adequate nutrition?
    - ii. What is the present status of this factor? How severe is the situation? Is the environment being degraded? Are women, rural or urban poor, or developing countries particularly disadvantaged? If so, how?
    - iii. Are the trends for this factor improving, worsening, staying the same? How are the trends for this factor measured? Do these measurements indicate the situation is changing? If so, how? Because of potential change, or no change, is the situation for your rural farm or urban family getting worse, improving or staying the same?
  - b. How would improving or resolving this factor increase the amount or quality of food or income available to your family? Preserve the environment sustainably? Lead to economic

development and poverty reduction? Benefit women, smallholder farmers or urban dwellers in your country of focus?

- c. How will other major issues (climate volatility, population growth, water scarcity, urbanization, energy demand, pollution, etc.) affect your chosen factor and the wellbeing of your family and their community in the decades ahead?
- d. Based on your research, give your recommendations on how to effectively address your selected factor to improve the food security of your rural or urban family in the country on which you have focused. What policies, technologies, practices or investments do you recommend to solve this situation? Describe one or more local projects in your focus country that could be scaled up successfully.
- e. Give your suggestions for the appropriate role of communities, the national government, corporations and other organizations (United Nations, World Bank, international research agencies, nongovernmental and civic organizations, etc.) in implementing your recommendations in your country. How should rural farm and urban families be involved as key players in implementing these recommendations?

### **Paper Format Requirements:**

Be sure to review the *Introduction to the Issues* and instructions on *How to Write Your Paper* before beginning your research, and follow the *Paper Format Requirements* below, as all papers will be evaluated on both content and formatting. A list of suggested references can be found in the Sample Resources, and the Sample Paper provides an example of how to format and structure your paper.

Students selected to attend the National Conference as a finalist will have their research papers reviewed and published online by the MANRRS.

### **FORMAT REQUIREMENTS**

Papers must include:

- **Identification in the upper left-hand corner** of the first page providing the name of the student author, high school name, school city, school state, selected country and factor number, and essay title (in bold)
  - Example:
    - Jackie Smith  
Central High School Jackson, MS  
India, Factor 11: Malnutrition  
**India: A Holistic Approach for the Rural Population**
- **Body of approximately 3 pages** in length including:
  - an introduction and conclusion, each of which must be at least one-half page
  - word count of approximately 1,200 – 1,500 words, excluding bibliography
  - **Bibliography page with at least three sources and in-text citations** using the standards set by the Modern Language Association (MLA) or American Psychological Association (APA). Choose one style and use it consistently.
  - MLA Style Guide: <http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/01/>
  - APA Style Guide: <http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/560/01/>

Submit papers as a Word (.doc or .docx) file and meet the following page format requirements:

- One-inch page margins (top, bottom, left, right)
- Eleven-point (11) font, Times New Roman
- Double-space text, no indentation
- Double-space between paragraphs
- Develop a clear, concise, and well-thought-out essay.
- Essays should be typewritten with one-inch margins and saved in Microsoft Word file.
- To assure anonymity in reviewing, repeat only the title at the top of the first page. Number the pages of the essay.
- The body of the essay is limited to six (3) typewritten, double-spaced pages.
- Appropriate documentation must appear in the text citing ideas and statements, which are not the author's words.

### **Judging**

Essays are judged based on style and content (opening and closing paragraphs, clarity of expression, logic, and references). A copy of the judge's score sheet is enclosed. Three to five professionals shall serve as judges. Judges receive all essays evaluation that meets proper formatting criteria. Names of author (cover sheet) will be removed and each paper assigned a number. Judges will score contestants as noted in these guidelines and return score sheets to the Contest Superintendent for final ranking.

### **Scoring/Ranking**

Each judge will rank the essays in numerical order (i.e., 1 = first place, 2 = second place...). In case of a tie in the ranking, the contestant who has the highest grand total shall be rated higher. The winners will be announced at the Awards Ceremony during the National Conference.

## **INTRODUCTION TO THE ISSUES**

### **BACKGROUND**

Sustainably feeding the more than 9 billion people who will be on our planet by the year 2050 is a critical issue that must be urgently addressed. Iowa native Dr. Norman Borlaug, renowned Nobel Peace Prize Laureate and World Food Prize founder, advocated throughout his life and career, as a scientist and humanitarian that attaining global food security would require effective solutions, technologies and policies for the world's smallholders. Fittingly, his poignant final words were, "Take it to the farmer."

In today's world, almost 1 billion people – 1 out of every 9 – go to bed hungry every night. There are strong, direct relationships linking poverty, agricultural productivity, and food security. About 70% of the world's poor live in rural areas, especially in Africa and Asia. The majority of these poor subsist on about 450 million smallholder farms (five acres or less). The most critical and immediate improvements in the livelihoods of smallholders can be achieved through agriculture-led economic growth and improved nutrition and health. As rural farmers and urban gardeners are able to grow and access more and better food, improved diets and health, higher family incomes, and improved livelihoods result. Families with the financial resources to escape extreme poverty rarely suffer from chronic hunger, while poor families not only suffer the most from chronic hunger, they are also the segment of the population most at risk during food shortages. Therefore, raising incomes through improvements in agricultural productivity and food availability is a key to directly benefiting the poor.

Volatile climate effects from rising temperatures such as the increasing frequency and severity of storms, flooding and droughts, the spread of plant diseases and weeds, and rising sea levels will have significant negative impacts on agricultural productivity. Shifting trends in agricultural production driven by these effects will most severely impact the world's poorest countries in Africa and Asia, threatening the ability of smallholder farmers to overcome hunger and malnutrition.

Successful technologies and policies for enabling smallholder farmers to overcome hunger and poverty by increasing agricultural productivity must be adapted to local climatic circumstances, guided by the farmers themselves, and more readily available to them.

### **WHAT IS FOOD SECURITY?**

Food security is when people do not live in hunger or fear of starvation. Food insecurity exists when people are undernourished as a result of the cost or physical unavailability of food and adequate nutrition. Worldwide, more than 925 million people – one seventh of the world population – are without enough food to eat on a regular basis and six million children die of hunger annually. Two billion people face sporadic food insecurity throughout the year, and there are 22 countries, 16 of which are in Africa, where more than one-third of the population is malnourished.

**Judge's Score Sheet Sample - Essay**

<b>Contestant's Name:</b>		
	Maximum Points	Points Received
Content Related to Topic	<b>15</b>	
Style and Format	<b>10</b>	
Opening Paragraph	<b>10</b>	
Organization and Logic	<b>30</b>	
Clarity of Expression	<b>30</b>	
Use of References	<b>5</b>	
<b>Total Points</b>	<b>100</b>	
<b>Rank of Contestant:</b>		
<b>Judge's Comments:</b>		

**Point System Explanation**

1. Content related to topic includes the appropriateness of the essay's content to the topic selected and the extent to which the author addressed the topic selected. **(10 points)**
2. Style includes the adherence to the rules of style listed in the Rules for Essay Preparation and Submission. **(10 points)**
3. Opening paragraph includes how well the opening catches the attention of the reader and how it leads into the body of the essay. **(10 points)**
4. Organization and logic includes the organization of the content, unity of thought, logical development, language used, sentence structure, accomplishment of purpose/conclusions, and material related to subtopic. **(30 points)**
5. Clarity of expression includes the clarity and conciseness of writing; conveyance of thought and meaning; the extent to which the essay was interesting, understandable, convincing, enjoyable, and held the reader's attention. **(30 points)**
6. Use of references includes the importance and appropriateness of the references, suitability of the material used, and the accuracy of the statements included. **(10 points)**

## National Public Speaking Contest

### General Description

This session provides an opportunity for undergraduate students to gain experience in expressing themselves verbally before an audience.

### Competencies

- Creation and Development
- Communication for Results
- Producing clear, concise, logical grammar
- Organization and Structure

### Requirements for Entry

The national public speaking contest will be open to undergraduate students who are members of MANRRS through chapter or individual membership. Entrants' names must appear on the national register in the Executive Office by **December 31, 2017**.

### Applications Procedure

- C. All speeches must pertain to the 2018 conference theme: *"MANRRS: Preparing our Future, Empowering our Present, and Honoring our Past!"* Complete and include an accurate bibliography to the Contest Superintendent with the submission of your speech. Entries must be RECEIVED by 11:59 PM EST on **January 31, 2018**. Electronic submission is required.
- D. **Submission Link** - <http://info.manrrs.org/2018-contest-submission>
- E. The electronic submission should include a Microsoft word version of the speech, contest coversheet, bibliography, and an electronic link to the uploaded video of your presentation.
- F. A completed contest submission form must accompany the entry.

### Awards

1<sup>st</sup> Place - \$300; 2<sup>nd</sup> Place - \$200; 3<sup>rd</sup> Place - \$100

### Superintendent

**Wash A. Jones, Ph.D.**  
College of Agriculture and Human Sciences  
Prairie View A & M University  
Phone: 936-261-2538  
E-mail: [wajones@pvamu.edu](mailto:wajones@pvamu.edu)

### **Guidelines for Video Submission of Speech**

- Before the contest deadline date, be sure to set up a YouTube, Vimeo, etc. account. Make sure that you figure out how to upload videos to the site you choose.
- Send a link of the uploaded video to friends and family to make sure that it works.
- For your video, you will need a stopwatch, camera, and tripod.
- Keep the camera view wide enough to see your entire body and the equipment involved through the full range of motion.
- Some cameras only shoot for 12 minutes at a time. This should be sufficient to record the speech since the time limited to eight minutes. Make sure that your camera does not stop during the middle of your speech.
- Find someone who has experience with YouTube or Vimeo to help show you the ropes.
- HD video creates large files. You may need to compress them (not edit) to a smaller format for some internet sites.
- Please be sure to state your name and university before your speech.

*\*NOTE: Judges will meet prior to the contest to prepare and clarify the types of questions to be asked.*

### **Guidelines for Scoring**

#### **1. Time Limit**

- Each speech shall be limited to **eight minutes**, and two minutes will be allotted for questions from the judges. The Contest Superintendent shall introduce the contestants by name and institution. The contestant will introduce the speech by title only. Contestants will be penalized 20 points per minute, or any fraction thereof, for speaking over 8 minutes. Time commences when the speaker begins talking. The total time allotted for the speech and questions shall not exceed 10 minutes.

#### **2. Method of Selecting Winners:**

- The judges will be furnished with copies of the contestants' manuscripts and electronic links to view and judge speeches, prior to the conference. The judges will score the essay based on content related to the topic, writing style, opening paragraph, organization and logic, clarity of expression, use of references and criteria outlined on the preliminary judging sheet regarding the video.
  - A committee will select six finalists from the pool of contestants
- Judges shall return their preliminary scores to the Contest Superintendent by **February 28, 2018**. Contestants will be notified, by **March 2, 2018** if they have qualified to compete at the National Conference.
- Professional members conduct the final round of judging at the National Conference. Final round contestants will be judged solely on their presentation in the final round. Performance in the preliminary round will not be considered in determining the final winner of the contest.
- Attendance shall be open to the general body. No individual may enter or leave the room during a presentation.

- Contestants shall draw to determine the order of presentation. A contestant shall be permitted to use notes while speaking, but if this practice detracts from the effectiveness of the presentation, deductions in the score may be made.
- Contestants shall be seated outside of the room, until they are called upon to present.
- A timekeeper shall be designated to record the length of the presentation.
- Judges will score the contestants on the delivery of their speeches.
- Individuals from the contestants' schools will not be allowed to ask questions or judge the contestants. Judges from the same region as the contestants should not be allowed to score or ask questions of contestants from their region.
- Each contestant shall be scored based on his/her ability to respond to the questions and the perceived quality of the response.
- The winner will be invited to present his/her speech during the Gala Dinner.

### **Procedures for Scoring/Ranking of Contestants**

- A. When all contestants have finished speaking, each judge, without consultation, will total the scores and provide a ranking (1 = first place, 2 = second place). The scores then will be given to the Contest Superintendent, who will consult the timekeepers' records, to determine the final ranking of the contestants. In the case of a tie, the contestant, who has the highest grand total, shall be rated higher.



**MANRRS Public Speaking Contest**  
**Preliminary Judge's Score Sheet**

Student's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Essay	Maximum Points	Points Received
Content Related to Topic	10	
Writing Style	10	
Opening Paragraph	10	
Organization & Logic	20	
Clarity of Expression	20	
Use of References	5	
<b>Total Essay Points</b>	<b>75</b>	
<b>Video</b>		
Power of Expression	10	
Voice	5	
Presence	10	
General Effect	5	
<b>Total Video Points</b>	<b>30</b>	
<b>Cumulative Points</b>	<b>105</b>	
<b>Rank of Contestant</b>		
<b>Judge's Comments</b>		

**Point System for Public Speaking Contest**

**Essay**

- **Content related to the topic:** Essay discussed the required topic and remained on topic (10 points)
- **Writing style:** Writing style was grammatically correct, consistent and flowed well (10 points)
- **Opening paragraph:** Captured and maintained the attention of the reader (10 points)
- **Organization and logic:** Essay was organized and logical (20 points)
- **Clarity of expression:** Ideas discussed were clear and made sense (20 points)
- **Use of references:** Essay included appropriate reference list or works cited list (5 points)

**Video**

- **Power of expression:** Fluency, emphasis, directness, sincerity, communicative ability, conveyance of thought and meaning (10 points)
- **Voice:** Quality, pitch, articulation, pronunciation, force (5 points)
- **Stage presence:** Personal appearance, poise and body posture, attitude, confidence, personality, and ease before the audience (10 points)
- **General Effect:** Extent to which the speech was interesting, understandable, convincing, pleasing, and held the attention of the audience and provided evidence of purpose (5 points)

### **Presentation at National Conference**

- a. **Power of expression** includes fluency, emphasis, directness, sincerity, communicative ability, conveyance of thought and meaning. **(30 points)**
- b. **Voice** includes quality, pitch, articulation, pronunciation, force. **(10 points)**
- c. **Stage presence** includes personal appearance, poise and body posture, attitude, confidence, personality, and ease before the audience. **(30 points)**
- d. **General effect** includes extent to which the speech was interesting, understandable, convincing, pleasing, and held the attention of the audience; and provided evidence of purpose. **(15 points)**
- e. **Response to questions** includes ability to answer the questions\* related to the speech, which are asked **only** by the judges, indicating originality, familiarity with subject, and ability to think quickly. **(15 points)**

*\*NOTE: Judges will meet prior to the contest to prepare and clarify the types of questions to be asked.*

### **Guidelines for Presentation Scoring**

#### **I. Time Limit**

- a. Each speech shall be limited to **eight minutes**. Contestants will be penalized 20 points per minute, or any fraction thereof, for speaking over 8 minutes. Time commences when the speaker begins talking.

#### **II. Method of Selecting Winners:**

- a. The judges will be furnished with copies of the contestants' manuscripts and electronic links
- b. View and judge speeches, prior to the conference. The judges will score the essay based on content related to the topic, writing style, opening paragraph, organization and logic, clarity of expression, use of references and criteria included on the preliminary judge's score sheet.
- c. A contestant shall be permitted to use notes while speaking, but if this practice detracts from the effectiveness of the presentation, deductions in the score may be made.
- d. Judges will score the contestants on the delivery of their speeches.

**Public Speaking Contest**  
**Final Round Score Sheet**

<b>Contestant's Name</b>		
<b>Oral Presentation</b>	<b>Maximum Points</b>	<b>Points Received</b>
Power of expression	30	
Voice	10	
Stage presence	30	
General effect	15	
Response to questions	15	
<b>PRELIMINARY TOTAL POINTS</b>	<b>100</b>	
<i>* Less deduction for exceeding time limit</i>		
<b>TOTAL POINTS</b>		
<b>RANK OF CONTESTANT</b>		
<b>JUDGE'S COMMENTS:</b>          		

\*TIME PENALTY: 20 Points will be deducted for each minute, or fraction thereof, over the allotted time.

## **National Research Discussion Contest**

### **General Description**

Since its inception, MANRRS has emphasized the importance of the need for strong, effective communication skills. It has coupled this with an equal commitment to help students learn how to process research information as a necessary component to professional and academic excellence. Other conference activities--graduate and undergraduate oral research presentations, speech contests and poster presentations--give excellent individual opportunities to students.

The Research Discussion Contest is an interactive opportunity designed for helping students learn and demonstrate effective skills in an oral research-oriented discussion. This structured discussion is designed to integrate research content, knowledge of applied research methodologies, effective oral communication skills, critical thinking, and social-business courtesies--all skills that are important to careers in industry, higher education and the professions.

The national research discussion contest is open to undergraduate and graduate students who are members of MANRRS through chapter or individual membership. Entrants' names must appear on the national register in the office of the membership chair by **January 31**.

### **Competencies**

- Analytical approach to scientific questions
- Statistical analysis
- Writing
- Critical Thinking

### **Application Procedures**

The contest theme is “*What is the role of research in addressing challenges related to food insecurity?*”

### **Awards**

1<sup>st</sup> Place - \$300; 2<sup>nd</sup> Place - \$200; 3<sup>rd</sup> Place - \$100

### **Contest Superintendent**

**Dr. Kenneth Jones**  
**University of Kentucky**  
Phone: (859) 257-7193  
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### **Contest Goals**

1. To provide opportunity for graduate and undergraduate students to enhance and display oral communication skills in a friendly, competitive and structured discussion contest.
2. To encourage participants to learn more about current research issues and topics.
3. To encourage students to develop skills in presenting researched information in interactive settings.
4. The RESEARCH DISCUSSION CONTEST will involve five to 12 participants in a structured group activity; however, participants will be judged on individual performance.
5. Selected research material will be made available to the participants in advance. Discussion participants will be selected through an essay competition as determined by preliminary judges. Three (3) research discussion questions derived from the reading material will be provided to the contestants in advance. Students will prepare to discuss all three questions. Participants are free to do research and study other materials on the topic to better prepare them for discussing the topic.
6. One of the questions will be identified **at the start of the conference contest** as the topic to be discussed during the competition. The participants will discuss the topic of the day in the time allotted. Discussion period is 30 minutes. Individual performance will be judged against pre-determined criteria including: mastery of the subject matter, ability to remain focused, verbal communication skills, communication courtesies, diction, grammar, and interactive skills.

### **Benefits to Participants**

- Improved ability to read, understand and handle academic and research information.
- Improved levels of confidence in discussing information in public places, with peers and employers.
- Improved diction, word power, enunciation, critical thinking, and articulation skills.
- Improved ability to speak succinctly, conveying ideas effectively.
- Improved ability to engage in the discussion of important information.
- Development of important social/business skills -- communication courtesies, taking turns in conversation, disagreeing without being disagreeable, questioning, and probing the thoughts of others effectively.

**Instructions for Submitting Essays**

Contest requirements for **Part 1** ask that participants **identify and interview** a research faculty member in their career field at their institution. The interview should be summarized in an essay encapsulating the answers to the following questions:

- Characterize research activities in this field.
- Identify the individual by name, title, institution, and contact information. This information is not to be included in the essay word count.
- **Briefly** describe the research area of the person that you have chosen to interview. Your weighted essay must include a summary of your interview discussion with this individual.
- Provide examples of how research in this field has been applied in education, industry, and/or outreach.
- Explain how the research activities of the person that you interviewed enhanced their career and/or professional activities.

**Please prepare your essay as instructed below:**

Essays must be typed. Use single spacing except between title and body of the paper. Each page should have a one-inch margin on all sides.

1. Capitalize entire title.
2. Essays must be a minimum of 750 words and no more than two (2) pages and must include:
  - a. An introductory paragraph
  - b. Body of the paper
  - c. Concluding paragraph.
3. Please do not include graphs, charts, plots, tables, illustrations, or references in your essay.
4. Include your first name, middle initial, surname, and current mailing address at the end of the paper.
5. Your essay and contest cover sheet should be RECEIVED by 11:59 PM EST, **January 31, 2018.**

**Evaluation Criteria**

**Essays will be judged based on the following criteria:**

Content as identified above:	(100 points) _____
Opening paragraph	(75 points) _____
Organization and logic	(100 points) _____
Clarity of expression	(50 points) _____
Closing paragraph	(75 points) _____
<b>Total Points</b>	(400 points) _____
Rank of Contestant _____	

### **Competition**

1. Preliminary judges will score the essays and select five (5) to twelve speakers from the pool of essay contestants. **Contest will only be held if five (5) or more applications are RECEIVED by the deadline.**
2. Judges will provide contestant scores to Contest Superintendent by February 28, 2018.
3. Contestants will be notified via e-mail, by **March 2, 2018** followed by written confirmation informing them that they have been selected to compete at the National Conference. The packet will also include no more than three (3) research articles to be reviewed and three (3) questions for discussion.
4. Contestants will engage in a structured discussion of one of the questions based on the three research articles that have been sent to them. Contest participants are encouraged to read other related research-based material in preparation for the Contest. The contest will be held on Saturday morning.
5. Attendance will be open to the general body of conference attendees.
6. Contestants are permitted to make notes during the contest but are not permitted to use prepared notes or references while participating in the contest.
7. Contestants will be seated together during the contest.
8. Contest volunteers include timekeeper, judges, and a moderator.

### **Scoring/Ranking of National Contestants**

At the conclusion of the contest, the judges will, without consultation, individually total their scores and then consult with each other to arrive at first, second and third place winners.

**Research Discussion Contestant Rating Sheet**

Individual Summary

PARTICIPANT'S NAME \_\_\_\_\_

		<p>TOPIC:</p> <p>_____</p> <p>Superior--- 5; Excellent---4; Good---3; Fair---2;Poor---1</p>			
		<p><b>(1) DEFINITION OF TOPIC OR PROBLEM:</b> Importance, causes, effects, relevancy of problem</p>			
		<p><b>(2) ANALYSIS OF TOPIC OR PROBLEM:</b> Does contestant attempt to identify problem causes and remain on topic? Knowledge, extent and accuracy of facts. Data were interpreted properly.</p>			
		<p><b>(3) PRESENTATION OF RESEARCH MATERIAL AND PROBLEM SOLVING:</b> Ability of contestant to present and discuss information in a logical flow and begin to move toward problem solving approaches or increased understanding of the problem.</p>			
		<p><b>(4) DELIVERY:</b> Voice quality, projection, clear enunciation, friendly and interactive, desirable sentence structure and vocabulary.</p>			
		<p><b>(5) COOPERATIVE ATTITUDE:</b> Listening, asking pertinent questions, airing all points of view, securing major agreement, minimizing major differences, respect for other participants.</p>			
		<p><b>(6) TOTAL EFFECTIVENESS:</b> A general evaluation of overall problem-solving performance by the contestant.</p>			
		<p><b>(7) QUALITY OF RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS FROM THE AUDIENCE:</b> Knowledge, relevance, confidence, and interactive ability.</p>			
		<p><b>(8) TOTAL:</b> Total score for each contestant is to be tabulated by the judge. Any tie scores are to be broken by the judge.</p>			
		RANK			

**COMMENTS:** Briefly summarize strengths and opportunities for improvements.



## Agriculture and Science Photography Contest

### General Description

The purpose of the MANRRS Agriculture and Science Photography Contest is to provide MANRRS members and Chapters with the opportunity to express their love for agriculture and science in an artistic fashion. The Contest will also allow for individuals and Chapters to compete at the National level in a friendly and competitive atmosphere for all to enjoy.

### Competencies

- Decision Making
- Communication Proficiency
- Detail Oriented
- Innovative

### Requirements for Entry

This Contest is open to the following:

- MANRRS Graduate, Undergraduate and Junior. MANRRS members and MANRRS Chapters
- Students and Chapters must be nationally registered
- Chapters must have submitted the proper documentation to qualify as a *Chapter of Excellence*.
  - Only one entry per MANRRS Chapter may be submitted in a given year.
  - Only one entry per MANRRS member may be submitted in a given year.
  - A 300-word description elaborating on the art piece's inspiration and meaning as well as how it fits the MANRRS mission, history and future needs and submit via e-mail when applying to this contest.

### Application Procedures

- All photographs, Submission Contest form, and essay **MUST** be submitted electronically to the **Submission Link** - <http://info.manrrs.org/2018-contest-submission> no later than **January 31, 2018** at 11:59pm EST.
  - **Note: Photographs submitted through email will NOT be accepted.**
- Photographs must be in one of the following formats:
  - **.jpeg .jpg .pdf or .gif**
- All photographs submitted must be the work of the individual MANRRS member or of the Chapter entering the Contest. Plagiarism is prohibited and violations of any copyright laws will result in disqualification from the contest.
- 300-word description should be written in 12-point font, single spacing and 1 inch margins.

### Deadline

- All entries (photograph and entry form) must be received by **January 31, 2018 at 11:59 pm EST.**
- A complete entry includes the following material/information:
  - Photograph for submission in the proper format ([.jpeg .jpg .pdf or .gif](#))
  - Signed/initialed photo release information
  - Complete general entry form

### Awards

- The overall first place **individual winner** will have his/her winning photograph published in the MANRRS 33<sup>rd</sup> Annual Career Fair and Training Conference Program
- The overall first place **Chapter winner** will have their winning photograph published in the MANRRS 33<sup>rd</sup> Annual Career Fair and Training Conference Program.
- The first and second runner up photograph will be on the MANRRS website. Winners shall be notified at least two weeks prior to the 33<sup>rd</sup> Annual Career Fair and Training Conference.
- Certificates of excellence will be provided to the winners at the conference. No prize transfer, assignment, or substitution by winners permitted.

### **Photograph Requirements & Guidelines**

- All photographs entered must be the work of the individual MANRRS student or the MANRRS Chapter submitting the entry.
- Photographs must be submitted under one of the following categories/themes:
  - **Category A: “MANRRS: Preparing our Future, Empowering our Present, and Honoring our Past”** (2018 Conference Theme)
  - **Category B:** Changing the Face of Agriculture While Linking Hands Around the World (MANRRS Motto)
  - **Category C:** What is the meaning of MANRRS?
- Photographs CANNOT be entered in more than one of the above categories.
  - Photographs must be in one of the following formats: [.jpeg .jpg .pdf or .gif](#)
- Photographs may be in color OR black-and-white. Photos may be of any **standard size** smaller than or equal to 8 ½ x 11.
- Entry prints may be made from negatives, slides, APS film or digital media.
- Photographs MUST be submitted as an attachment and not embedded in a document. They are NOT to be accompanied by any written work except for the MANRRS Agriculture and Science Photography Contest General Entry Form and Photo Release information.

### **Judging Criteria**

- MANRRS professional and student members, sponsors, and advisory board members, not associated with any Photography Contest participants, will serve as judges for the MANRRS Agriculture and Science Photography Contest.
- While adhering to the rules that are provided in the document, it may be the first step for entry into the contest, there are many other factors that guide the judges in deciding which photos are worthy of awards. This criteria include:
  - **Relevancy to Category Topic in which photograph is submitted** - Is the photo an obvious illustration of the category in which it is entered?
  - **Composition/Arrangement/Quality of image** – If there are objects in the photograph, are the objects arranged in a meaningful, pleasing manner or are they "haphazard?" Did the photographer use the best angle or otherwise interesting perspective?
  - **Focus/Sharpness** - Is the object of the photograph in focus? Is the photograph in focus? If not in sharp focus, does it appear to be an intentional effect to enhance the image in some "artistic" way?
  - **Lighting** - Did the photographer use proper lighting of the subject matter? Do any extremes of darkness or brightness lend to or detract from the image content?
  - **Creativity** - Does the photographer show some creative thought or an original idea in the making of this image?

### **Additional information:**

One suggested resource for learning more about taking quality and meaningful photographs is as follows:

Kodak.com's "Taking Great Pictures" site at: <http://www.kodak.com/US/en/nav/takingPics.shtml>

For questions, please contact the MANRRS Photography Contest chairs at the following email address: [undergraduate.pastpresident@manrrs.org](mailto:undergraduate.pastpresident@manrrs.org) .

## **Impromptu Public Speaking Contest**

### **General Description**

The MANRRS Impromptu Public Speaking Contest is designed to develop the ability of all MANRRS members to express himself or herself on a given subject without having prepared or rehearsed its content in advance. This provides the MANRRS members an opportunity to gain public speaking skills and effective quick and critical thinking as they formulate their remarks for presentation in a very limited amount of time. The event requires students to think on their feet, state their case quickly and persuasively, and to be able to answer relevant questions from the audience and judges based upon their presentation.

### **Competencies**

- Communication
- Leadership
- Interpersonal Collaboration
- Confidence

### **Requirements for Entry**

Participation is limited to members of MANRRS. Total number of participants will be limited at Regional Clusters to 10 participants on a first come, first serve basis. The pre-registration process will determine the sign-up, be sure to register early. The 1st and 2nd place winners of each Regional competition will be qualified for the National competition to be held during the MANRRS National Conference. The Regional Student Vice-Presidents will forward the names of contest participants to the National Office and to the Impromptu Superintendent. The same contest rules will be followed at the National Conference.

### **Awards**

1<sup>st</sup> Place - \$300; 2<sup>nd</sup> Place - \$200; 3<sup>rd</sup> Place - \$100

### **Contest Superintendent**

**Dr. Robert Flores**  
**Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo**  
Phone: (805) 756-2169  
Email: [rflores@calpoly.edu](mailto:rflores@calpoly.edu)

### **Tie Breaker**

Judges will make sure that there will be a first and second place winner at the Regional Cluster and one winner at the national conference. In the event of a tie, the winner will be determined by drawing and answering an additional impromptu question. Aside from the judges, there will be an additional super delegate (a national officer or professional member) that can act as the deciding vote if the judges cannot come to a final decision. The super delegate must attend for the second question.

### **Rules**

1. Each contestant's written production will be the result of his/her own efforts. Facts and data may be secured from any source prior to the contest start.
2. Impromptu Public Speaking contestants will dress in a professional manner.

3. Violations of any of the rules will result in the disqualification of the contestant by the contest superintendent or representative.
4. Subjects
5. Contestants will draw to determine the order of speaking.
6. Contestants will be admitted to the preparation room at 10-minute intervals and given exactly 20 minutes for topic selection and preparation.
7. The selection of topics shall be held directly before the preparation time commences. The contestant will draw three topics relating to MANRRS and the industry of agriculture or its related sciences. After reading all three, the contestant will select one. There are no repeat questions.
8. Topics should be specific and related to current issues pertaining to MANRRS and the industry of agriculture or its related sciences. They will be typed on cards or strips of paper. Topics will be generic in nature. All topics will be developed by the MANRRS President-Elect and provided to contest superintendents.
9. A national officer or preselected person (such as advisors from schools within the host region or other professional members) will monitor the preparation room to make sure that contestants are using no use of unauthorized materials.
10. Reference material that can be used includes printed material such as books, or magazines from the internet (cannot be notes or speeches prepared by the contestant or notes prepared by another person for the purpose of this contest). At each cluster or at the national conference a computer center or authorized set up computer(s) can be used during the 20-minute preparation period under supervision. In the event that a computer center is unavailable, a computer, tablet, or cellular device will be provided for your use. Collected quotes must be individually referenced. To be referenced by author, the name of the document or website in which the article appears, the publisher or website organization, and that date of publication or posting must be noted. A list of citations from the speech will be collected at the end of each speech.
  - i. Shall be limited to five sources within the speech.
11. Each speech shall be the result of the contestant's own effort using approved reference material, which the contestant may bring to the preparation room. No other assistance may be provided. Uniform note cards will be provided to each contestant. Any notes for speaking must be made during the 20-minute preparation period. A watch may be used by the speaker to keep record of their time.
12. A list of all possible topics will be given to and reviewed by the judges prior to the beginning of the contest.

### **Time Limit**

- Each speech shall not be less than two or more than four minutes with three minutes additional time allowed for related questions, which shall be asked by the judges. The chairperson of the contest shall introduce the contestant by name and the contestant may introduce his/her speech by title only.
- Contestants are to be penalized one point per second on each judge's score sheet for being over four minutes or under two minutes. Time commences when the speaker begins talking. At the 1, 2, 3, and 3.5-minute mark the contestant will be given a warning card by the timekeeper.

- A timekeeper shall be designated who will record the time used by each contestant in delivering his/her speech, noting “under time” and “overtime,” if any, for which deductions should be made.
- During the question phase, time will be called at exactly three minutes, whether or not the contestant is finished with their answer or a judge is asking a question.

### **Method of Selecting Winner**

- Regional/cluster contests will be under the direction of the MANRRS Regional Vice Presidents and their advisors. They will designate an individual as contest Chairperson or act as contest Chairperson themselves if they cannot assign one.
- Contestants shall draw for places on the program. The program chairperson shall then introduce each speaker by name only in order of the drawing. A contestant will be permitted to use notes while speaking.
- Three competent and impartial persons will be selected to judge the contest.
- The judges will score each contestant upon the delivery of the production, using the score sheet provided.
- Each judge may formulate and ask questions. Questions shall pertain directly to the speaker's subject. Questions containing two or more parts or requiring a yes or no answer should be avoided. Judges will score each contestant on the ability to answer all questions asked by all judges. The full three minutes for questions should be used.
- When all contestants have finished speaking, each judge will total the score for each contestant. The timekeeper’s record will be used in computing the final score for each contestant.
- Contestants shall be ranked in numerical order based on the final score to be determined by each judge without consultation with each other. The judges' total points for each contestant then shall be added and the winner will be the contestant with the most points. Other placing shall be determined in the same manner.

### **Explanation of Score Sheet Point**

- A.** Knowledge of subject includes:
  - a.** Importance and appropriateness of the subject
  - b.** Suitability of the material used
  - c.** Accuracy of the statements included
  - d.** Evidence of purpose
- B.** Organization of materials includes:
  - a.** Organization of the content
  - b.** Unity of thought
  - c.** Logical development
  - d.** Language used
  - e.** Sentence structure
  - f.** Accomplishment of purpose – conclusions

- C.** Voice includes:

- a.** Articulation
  - b.** Pronunciation
  - c.** Force
  
- D.** Stage presence includes:
  - a.** Poise and body posture
  - b.** Confidence
  - c.** Personality
  - d.** Ease before audience
  
- E.** General effect includes:
  - a.** Extent to which the speech was interesting, understandable, convincing, pleasing, and held attention.
  - b.** Responses to questions include the ability to answer the questions on the speech, which are asked by the judges indicating: originality, familiarity with subject, and the ability to think quickly.
  
- F.** In the event of a tie, the judges will meet in seclusion to pick an official winner. Aside from the judges, there will be an additional super delegate (a national officer or professional member) that can act as the deciding vote if the judges cannot come to a final decision.

**IMPROMPTU PUBLIC SPEAKING CONTEST**  
**Judge's Score Sheet**

JUDGE'S SCORE SHEET: Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Cluster: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

ITEMS TO BE SCORED		SPEAKERS:									
		#1	#2	#3	#4	#5	#6	#7	#8	#9	#10
A. Knowledge of Subject	15										
B. Organization of Material	20										
C. Power of Expression	15										
D. Voice	10										
E. Stage Presence	15										
F. General Effect	15										
G. Response to Questions	10										
TOTAL POINTS: 100											
LESS TIME 1 PT./ DEDUCTIONS SECOND											
TOTAL SCORE: (NET)											
RANKING:											

**Business Pitch Competition**  
**for Agriculture, Natural Resources, and STEM Related Projects**

**Session Description:**

Have an idea for new business or non-profit you would like to start? Then enter the MANRRS Pitch Competition! You will have 5 minutes onstage to describe your idea, and why you think it will change your university or local community, as we know it. Your business does not have to exist just yet, but the idea & pitch have to relate to agriculture, natural resources and/or environmental businesses or non-profits. Think “Shark Tank” meets MANRRS! Instead of asking for investment, our judges will award the top presenter in each section \$500 in prize money.

**Competencies**

- Problem Solving
- Strategic Thinking
- Oral Communication
- Innovation

**Eligibility:**

The pitch competition will have two sections

- a. Undergraduate who are members of MANRRS
- b. Graduate Students or Professionals who are members of MANRRS

\*\*Applications may be submitted by individuals, or by teams of up to four people. However, only one person will present to the judges at the National Conference.

**Confidentiality/Intellectual Property:**

Finalists will be presenting their ideas in a session open to conference attendees. Applicants should not submit confidential or proprietary information (such as computer code, or invention descriptions if not patented) via the conference. As in the real investment/funding world, ideas are not treated as confidential—it has the entrepreneurs own ability to execute that is the differentiating factor.

**Format:**

Each presenter will give a five-minute oral presentation with the following elements

- a. Name of the proposed business or non-profit
- b. Mission/Purpose
- c. Size of the opportunity/problem to be solved
- d. How this new business will meet the need/solve the problem (products or services to be offered and business model)
- e. Team—entrepreneur(s) backgrounds (individual or team members)

Each 5-minute presentation will be followed by 5 minutes of Q&A from the panel of judges. The presenter may use PowerPoint slides.

**Award:**

- a. \$500 - Undergraduate who are members of MANRRS
- b. \$500 - Graduate Students or Professionals who are members of MANRRS

**Application process:**

Applicants must submit an on-line application consisting of:

1. Presenter’s name, school or professional affiliation, and contact information including LinkedIn profile.
2. Description of the business or non-profit which addresses each of the five elements listed above (a through e) totaling a maximum of 500 words.



A team of judges will select up to 10 finalists to present in person at the MANRRS 2018 National Annual Conference.

**Judges:**

Recommend a total of six judges or potential judges. Three judges for the finals competition at the National Conference. Three additional judges that can help narrow the application pool to the **10 finalists**, and/or serve as backup judges during the national conference.

### MANRRS Pitch Competition Judging Form

Name of Product/Business/Non-Profit:

Category:

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Please rank each application on a scale of 1 to 10. 10=Highest, 1= lowest

For each question, please add 1-2 sentences on why the score was given.

1. Does the Business or Non-Profit idea relate to the agriculture or environmental sectors?
  - a. Score:
  - b. Judges' comment:
  
2. How innovative is the idea (does it stand out?)
  - a. Score:
  - b. Judges' comment:
  
3. Is the "Mission Statement" clear and compelling?
  - a. Score:
  - b. Judges' comment:
  
4. Is the "Size of Market Opportunity/Problem" answered in specific terms (e.g. either a quantitative, or a qualitative clear description of whom the business/non-profit is targeting)?
  - a. Score:
  - b. Judges' comment:
  
5. "How does this new business or non-profit meet the need/solve the problem"-- Does the answer elaborate not just on what the problem is, but how this new business/non-profit will address that problem through its products and/or services?
  - a. Score:
  - b. Judges' comment:

Total Score: \_\_\_\_\_ out of 50

## **Elevator Speech Contest**

*Presented by Bayer*

### **General Description**

With the support of our national sponsor, Bayer, MANRRS will conduct the first annual elevator speech contest. A preliminary contest will be held at each regional cluster and finals will occur at the national conference.

### **Competencies**

- Oral Communication
- Delivering Results
- Taking Initiatives
- Demonstrating ethics and integrity

### **Purpose:**

The purpose of the elevator speech contest is to sell the brand of MANRRS to the judges and audience.

### **Requirements for Entry**

Active undergraduate and graduate members of MANRRS who attend the regional cluster are eligible to participate. A single first place winner, either undergraduate or a graduate will win the contest at the regional level and qualify for the national contest.

### **Process**

- Each chapter is guaranteed one participant from their institution.
- Each chapter is permitted to submit a maximum of two participants. Only the first person to submit the registration form will be guaranteed a slot. A secondary participant will be selected based solely on availability of slots. Regional clusters have a maximum capacity of up to 20 slots.
- Registration forms will be sent out to each chapter one month prior to the cluster date. Participants must submit a completed contest form to the contest superintendent no later than two weeks prior to the cluster. Participants will be notified if they are eligible to participate one week prior to the cluster date.
  - Region I Dates: October 27-28
  - Region II/III Dates: September 29 – October 1
  - Region IV Dates: October 13-14
  - Region V Dates: October 20-22
  - Region VI Dates: November 10-11
- Students will draw for order of speech presentations at the regional cluster.
- Elevator speeches are limited to 60 seconds. After 60 seconds, a penalty of 1 point will be deducted for every 1 second the student goes over the time limit.
- There are no additional aids, materials, or props that can be used during the contest at the regional or national level.
- Each regional cluster will award a single 1st place winner.
- If the selected winner is not eligible, forfeits, or cannot attend the national conference, then the overall second place winner will be awarded national eligibility.

### **Awards**

Regional Level	
First Place	TBD
Second Place	TBD

National Level	First Place	TBD
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**Judging Criteria**

Each criteria is worth a total of 10 points with a maximum score of 60

- Presentation
  - General Appearance, Posture, Enthusiasm
- Voice
  - Projection, Control, Volume, Clarity
- Language
  - Articulation, Grammar
- Organization
  - Structure, Order
- Style
  - Demeanor, Confidence
- Content
  - Value, Effectiveness, Appropriateness

The regional winner will be required to perform his/her speech during the cluster award ceremony.

**Elevator Speech Contest**  
**Judge's Score Sheet**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Cluster: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

ELEVATOR SPEECH CONTEST

ITEMS TO BE SCORED		SPEAKERS:									
		#1	#2	#3	#4	#5	#6	#7	#8	#9	#10
A. Presentation	10										
B. Voice	5										
C. Language	10										
D. Organization	10										
E. Style	5										
F. Content	10										
<b>TOTAL POINTS:</b>	<b>50</b>										
LESS TIME	1 PT./										
DEDUCTIONS	SECOND										
<b>TOTAL SCORE:</b>											
(NET)											
<b>RANKING:</b>											