



**MANRRS National Training Conference and Career Expo  
Competitions**

**2020 National Jr. MANRRS Contest Request for Applications**

**APPLICATION DEADLINES:**

Jr MANRRS Contests: **March 1, 2020**

**National Society for MANRRS**

**National Training Conference and Career Expo Student Competitions**

## Introduction

Since its inception, MANRRS has emphasized the importance of the need for strong, effective communication skills. 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. Through the Cluster Meetings and the National Career Fair and Training Conference, the National Society provides its members with opportunities to develop, refine and express their skills via networking activities and contests.

### General 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.

### Applications Deadline

All Jr. MANRRS contestants must submit their application package **for the appropriate contest by 11:59 pm Eastern Time** on March 1, 2020. Applications received after this deadline will not be considered for participation.

### Submission

**All entries must be submitted electronically at <https://info.manrrs.org/2020-contest-submission>**

*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.*

**[Deadline for all Jr MANRRS Contests is March 1, 2020](#)**

## **2020 JR. MANRRS National Contest Description**

### **1. Jr. MANRRS Impromptu Speaking Contest**

The Jr. MANRRS Impromptu Public Speaking Contest is designed to develop the ability of our 7<sup>th</sup> -12<sup>th</sup> grade members to express themselves on a given subject without having prepared or rehearsed its content in advance. This gives the Jr. MANRRS members an opportunity to formulate their remarks for presentation in a very limited amount of time. The contest requires students to “think on their feet,” state their case quickly and persuasively, and to be able to answer relevant questions based upon their presentation.

### **2. Jr. MANRRS Research Poster Display**

This contest provides an opportunity for **7<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade 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.

### **3. Jr. MANRRS Written Essay Contest**

This contest provides an opportunity for **7<sup>th</sup>- 12<sup>th</sup> grade students** to gain experience in expressing themselves, through writing. Essays will be judged and the winners selected, **prior** to the National Contest.

### **4. Jr. MANRRS Public Speaking Contest**

This contest provides an opportunity for **7<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade students** to gain experience in expressing themselves orally before an audience.

## **Jr. MANRRS Contest Application Procedure**

1. An advisor must approve all entries prior to submitting.

2. Electronic submission is required for **ALL** contests.

Please submit all entries online to: <https://info.manrrs.org/2020-contest-submission>

3. All entries must be RECEIVED by 11:59 PM EST March 1, 2020.

Late entries will not be accepted. Participants will be notified of receipt of their items by March 13th.

4. Presenters are required to be **middle and/or high school 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 January 31st. No waiver of conference registration fees will be granted to participants. The student's chapter advisor or faculty research advisor must certify that the research is the work of the presenter.

5. Each presentation will be limited to 10 minutes.

Questions:

**Jr. MANRRS Contest**

**Coordinator ATTN: Michelle Cole**

**Email: [jr.manrrs@manrrs.org](mailto:jr.manrrs@manrrs.org)**

**Phone: 334-339-1475**

## **Jr. MANRRS Impromptu Speaking Contest**

### **GENERAL DESCRIPTION:**

The Jr. MANRRS Impromptu Public Speaking Contest is designed to develop the ability of our high school members to express themselves on a given subject without having prepared or rehearsed its content in advance. This gives the Jr. MANRRS members an opportunity to formulate their remarks for presentation in a very limited amount of time. The contest requires students to “think on their feet,” state their case quickly and persuasively, and to be able to answer relevant questions based upon their presentation.

### **REQUIREMENTS:**

Presenters are required to be high school student members at the time of the conference and must be in attendance at the conference. Entrants’ names must appear on the national membership register by **March 1, 2020**. There will be no waiver of conference registration fees for participants.

### **APPLICATION PROCEDURES:**

**The deadline to register to participate is 11:59 PM EST on March 1, 2020.**

All entries must be submitted on or before the contest deadline. Participants will be selected on a first-come, first-serve basis. Selected participants will be notified by March 13, 2020.

### **AWARDS:**

1<sup>st</sup> Place \$100, 2<sup>nd</sup> Place \$75, 3<sup>rd</sup> Place \$50

## **Jr. MANRRS Impromptu Speaking Rules**

### **General Rules**

- A. Each contestant's written production will be the result of his/her own efforts. It is expected that he/she will take advantage of all available training facilities in the local college/university in developing speaking and writing abilities. Facts and working data may be secured from any source.
- B. Violations of any of the rules will result in the disqualification of the contestant by the contest superintendent.

### **Subjects**

- A. The selection of topics shall be held before the contest. The contestant will draw three specific topics relating to MANRRS and the industry of agriculture or its related sciences. After selecting the topic, on which he/she desires to speak, all three topics will be returned to the original group of topic areas, prior to the next drawing.
- B. 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. Topics will be generic in nature. All topics will be developed by the JR. MANRRS Chair and Committee and provided to the contest superintendent.
- C. Contestants will draw to determine the order of speaking. Contestants will be admitted to the preparation room at 5 minute intervals and given exactly 10 minutes for topic selection and preparation.
- D. 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 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.
- E. A list of all possible topics will be given to and reviewed by the judges prior to the beginning of the contest.

### **Time Limit**

- A. 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.
- B. 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.

### **Winner Selection Method**

A. 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, but deduction in scoring may be made for this practice if it detracts from the effectiveness of the preparation.

B. A timekeeper shall be designated who will record the time used by each contestant in delivering his/her speech, and noting overtime, if any, for which deductions will be made.

C. At the time of the contest, the judges will be seated in different sections of the room in which the contest is held. They will score each contestant upon the delivery of the production, using the score sheet provided.

D. Each judge shall formulate and ask a question. Questions shall pertain directly to the speaker's subject. Questions containing two or more parts should be avoided. Judges will score each contestant on the ability to answer all questions asked by all judges. The full two minutes for questions should be used.

E. 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.

F. Contestants shall be ranked in numerical order on basis of final score to be determined by each judge without consultation with each other. The judges' ranking of each contestant then shall be added and the winner will be the contestant whose total of rankings is the lowest. Other placing shall be determined in the same manner. (Low point score method of selection). In the case of a tie that individual who has the highest grand total score shall have prior rating.





## **Jr. MANRRS Research Poster Display**

### **GENERAL DESCRIPTION**

This session provides an opportunity for high school 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. Entries may not be duplicated and entered in the Student Oral Research Contest. These entries will be "noncompetitive."

### **REQUIREMENTS**

Presenters are required to be high school student members at the time of the conference and must be in attendance at the conference. Entrants' names must appear on the national membership register by **March 1, 2020**. There will be no waiver of conference registration fees for participants.

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

### **APPLICATION PROCEDURES**

The deadline for entries is **11:59 PM EST** on **March 1, 2020**. All entries must be submitted, as instructed on the Student Research Poster Contest Abstract Form. Selected participants will be notified by March 13, 2020.

### **AWARDS:**

1st Place \$100, 2nd Place \$75, 3rd Place \$50

## **Jr. MANRRS Research Poster Contest Instructions**

### **Instructions for the preparation of the abstract**

- Prepare an abstract according to the guidelines contained in Contest #2.II above.
- To accompany the abstract, a Power Point will need to be developed highlights your poster presentation (Graphics)

### **Guidelines for the preparation of student research posters**

- The poster boards used will measure **3 feet high by 4 feet wide (36x48)**.
- The poster must be carefully planned, clear and concise. It should contain a brief statement of the purpose of your work, your experimental methodology and design, and the major results of your findings and their implications. It should hold the attention of the audience.

### **Lettering**

**Title** - A label showing the abstract number, the title, the author(s) and sponsoring institution must be positioned at the top of the poster. Lettering for the heading must be at least 1 inch in height. Lettering for author(s), and sponsoring institution must be at least  $\frac{3}{4}$  inch high. All other type must be at least  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch high. Your poster must be readable from a distance of 6 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 paper, do not use free hand printed letters.

**Figures and Tables** - Numerals and letters, included in the Figures and Tables, must be at least  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch high. The final size of the Figure or Table will depend on the complexity of the information, but it should not be less than 8in. x 10 in.

### **Mounting**

Do not use heavy (thick) stock, since this will not be supported by the Velcro “dots”. Leave  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch to 1 inch around your picture or illustration.

### **Miscellaneous**

Back lighted photographs, sound or projection equipment, freestanding displays greater than 4 x8 feet are prohibited. Tape should not be used to attach your display to the poster board.

It is important that you bring all of the materials, such as “dots” with adhesive on one side and Velcro on the other, that you will need to set up your display. Do not depend on the poster Contest Coordinator for supplies.

Be sure to have all materials prepared before you leave home. The time allocated, during the conference, is not the appropriate time for preparing or designing the poster.

**Judge's Score Sheet Sample**

<b>Contestant's Name:</b>		
	Maximum Points	Points Received
Content Related to Topic	<b>10</b>	
Style	<b>10</b>	
Opening Paragraph	<b>10</b>	
Organization and Logic	<b>30</b>	
Clarity of Expression	<b>30</b>	
Use of References	<b>10</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)**

## **Jr. MANRRS Written Essay Contest**

### **GENERAL DESCRIPTION:**

This contest provides an opportunity for students to gain experience in expressing themselves through writing. Essays will be judged and winners selected prior to the conference.

### **REQUIREMENTS FOR ENTRY**

The national essay contest will be open to high school 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 **January 31<sup>st</sup>**.

### **APPLICATION PROCEDURES**

All entries must be RECEIVED by 11:59 PM EST on **March 1, 2020**. Online electronic submission is required. Detailed application procedures are attached. All entries must be submitted as instructed on the attached page.

Participants will be notified upon receipt of their submission.

### **AWARDS**

1st \$100.00, 2nd \$75.00, 3rd \$50.00

## Instructions for Preparation of Essays

- Develop a clear, concise, and well-thought-out essay. All essays shall be written on the following topic: *“MANRRS: This is Impact”*
- Essays should be typewritten with one-inch margins and saved in Microsoft Word file. Essays must be RECEIVED by 11:59 PM EST **March 1, 2020**
- Submit the Contest Submission Form for electronic submissions.
- **Submission Link** - <https://info.manrrs.org/2020-contest-submission>
- 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 (6) typewritten, double-spaced pages. The title page (cover sheet) and the references or endnotes pages are not included as one of the pages.
- Appropriate documentation must appear in the text citing ideas and statements, which are not the author's. Use one of the manuals below and indicate in the reference section which manual was used.
- A minimum of three references should be used.
- Essay format must conform to the American Psychological Association (APA) writing style. For more information, please consult the Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association. Additionally, Purdue University’s writing center website has a freely available tips for APA writing (<https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/560/01/> )

### **Judging**

Essays will be judged on the basis of 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. All essays will be sent to judges for evaluation. 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.

## Jr. MANRRS Written Essay Contest

### Judge's Score Sheet

Contestant's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Maximum Points

Content Related to Topic	(10 Points)	_____
Style	(10 Points)	_____
Opening Paragraph	(10 Points)	_____
Organization and Logic	(30 Points)	_____
Clarity of Expression	(30 Points)	_____
Use of References	(10 Points)	_____

Total Points (100 Points) \_\_\_\_\_

Rank of Contestant \_\_\_\_\_

### National Essay Contest Explanation of Point System

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)**

JUDGE'S COMMENTS:

## **Jr. MANRRS Public Speaking Contest**

### **GENERAL DESCRIPTION**

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

### **REQUIREMENTS FOR ENTRY**

The national public speaking contest will be open to high school students who are members of MANRRS through chapter or individual membership. Entrants' names must appear on the national register in the Executive Office by **January 31<sup>st</sup>**.

### **APPLICATION PROCEDURES**

- A. All speeches must pertain to the conference theme:  
*“MANRRS: Sculpting Minds, Nurturing Hearts, and Creating Diverse Leaders”*
- B. Complete an accurate bibliography to the Contest Superintendent. Entries must be RECEIVED by 11:59 PM EST on **March 1, 2020**. Electronic submission is required.
- C. For electronic submissions, please use the following website:  
<https://info.manrrs.org/2020-contest-submission>
- D. A completed contest cover sheet must accompany the entry. For electronic submissions, Cover Sheets can be scanned or faxed and must include the advisor's signature.

### **AWARDS:**

1st Place \$100

2nd Place \$75

3rd Place \$50

## **Guidelines for Judging the Jr. MANRRS Public Speaking Contest**

### **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 2 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.

### **Winner Selection Method**

- Judging will be conducted at the National Training Conference and Career Fair, by professional members.
- Attendance shall be open to the general body. No individual may enter or leave the room during a presentation.
- Contestants shall draw for 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. Two timekeepers 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 will 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.



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

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.

### **JR MANRRS Public Speaking Contest Point System**

#### *EXPLANATION OF POINT SYSTEM FOR PUBLIC SPEAKING CONTEST*

- 1. Power of expression** includes: fluency, emphasis, directness, sincerity, communicative ability, conveyance of thought and meaning. **(30 points)**
- 2. Voice** includes: quality, pitch, articulation, pronunciation, force. **(10 points)**
- 3. Stage presence** includes: personal appearance, poise and body posture, attitude, confidence, personality, and ease before the audience. **(30 points)**
- 4. 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)**
- 5. 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.*

## Judge's Score Sheet

Contestant's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

### Written Presentation

Content related to topic	(10 points)	_____
Style	(10 points)	_____
Opening paragraph	(10 points)	_____
Organization and logic	(30 points)	_____
Clarity of expression	(30 points)	_____
Use of references	(10 points)	_____
<b>TOTAL POINTS (100 points)</b>		_____

Rank of contestant \_\_\_\_\_

### Oral Presentation

Power of expression	(30 points)	_____
Voice	(10 points)	_____
Stage presence	(30 points)	_____
General effect	(15 points)	_____
Response to questions	(15 points)	_____
<b>TOTAL POINTS (100 points)</b>		_____

\* Deduction for exceeding time limit \_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL POINTS \_\_\_\_\_

**CUMULATIVE POINTS (200 POINTS)** \_\_\_\_\_

RANK OF CONTESTANT \_\_\_\_\_

**JUDGE'S COMMENTS:**

*\*TIME PENALTY - 2 POINTS WILL BE DEDUCTED FOR EACH MINUTE, OR FRACTION THEREOF, OVER THE TIME LIMIT*