



# NATIONAL CONTEST GUIDELINES

38<sup>th</sup> Annual Training Conference & Career Expo

**March 20-24, 2024**

**MANRRS: Aspire to Inspire**

Chicago, IL | Marriott Downtown Magnificent Mile

# **TABLE OF CONTENTS**

<b>TABLE OF CONTENTS</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>INTRODUCTION</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>ELIGIBILITY</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>HOW TO PARTICIPATE</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>APPEAL DECISION:</b>	<b>4</b>
2024 CONTEST SUPERINTENDENTS	4
2024 CONTESTS TIMELINE	5
2024 CONTEST SCHEDULE	6
<b>ABSTRACT GUIDELINES</b>	<b>7</b>
MANRRS OFFICIAL ABSTRACT SAMPLE:	8
<b>PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST</b>	<b>9</b>
Contest Rules and Structure	9
Judging guidelines:	10
<b>MANRRS THEME CONTEST</b>	<b>10</b>
Contest Rules and Structure	10
Judging guidelines:	11
<b>IMPROMPTU SPEAKING CONTEST</b>	<b>11</b>
Contest Rules and Structure	11
Method of Selection a Winner	13
Score sheet	15
<b>ORAL RESEARCH CONTEST</b>	<b>16</b>
Contest Rules and Structure	16
Score Sheet (written abstract):	16
Rubric (Oral research):	18
Judging guidelines:	19
<b>PUBLIC SPEAKING CONTEST</b>	<b>19</b>
Contest Rules and Structure	19
Score sheet:	20
<b>MANRRS BOWL</b>	<b>22</b>
Layout of MANRRS Bowl	22

MANRRS Bowl Set-up	23
Participant Rules:	25
MANRRS Bowl Categories & Questions:	25
Judging guidelines:	27
Event set-up and Takedown:	28
<b>RESEARCH DISCUSSION CONTEST</b>	<b>28</b>
Contest Rules and Structure	28
Score sheet (Essay):	29
<b>WRITTEN ESSAY CONTEST</b>	<b>32</b>
Contest Rules and Structure	32
Score sheet (Essay):	32
<b>3 MIN THESIS CONTEST</b>	<b>34</b>
Contest Rules and Structure	34
Score sheet:	35
<b>BUSINESS PITCH</b>	<b>36</b>
Contest Rules and Structure	37
Score sheet:	38
<b>RESEARCH POSTER CONTEST</b>	<b>39</b>
Contest Rules and Structure	39
Score Sheet (written abstract):	40
Score sheet (presentation):	42

# **INTRODUCTION**

Are you ready to develop and showcase your competencies at the MANRRS38 National Contests? These student competitions offer a welcoming and fun space to showcase your skills and receive constructive feedback. The top three winners of each contest will be recognized and awarded a monetary prize at the conclusion of MANRRS38. All contestants must submit the application form for the appropriate contest by **January 31, 2024 by 5 PM EST**. *Applications received after this deadline will not be accepted for participation.* Please review and note contest guidelines below.

## **General Benefits to Participants**

- 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.
- Engage in critical thinking deliberations.
- Develop core competencies including: Fostering teamwork, Influencing without authority, Building relationships, Analytical and critical thinking, and flexibility

# **ELIGIBILITY**

- Must be an active MANRRS member
- Must attend the national conference
- For specific eligibilities of each contest, please see below

# **HOW TO PARTICIPATE**

- Create a submittable account before entry. Complete the electronic MANRRS submission form for each entry at <http://manrrs.submittable.com/submit>
- Electronic submission to each contest is required for participation

- All entries must be RECEIVED by 5 PM EST **January 31, 2024**. Late entries will not be accepted, no exceptions. Participants should receive an automated confirmation of their submission.
- Entries submitted to the wrong contest or division will be disqualified.
- Questions regarding the submission process can be directed to [contest@manrrs.org](mailto:contest@manrrs.org)

## **APPEAL DECISION:**

- After the initial review by the Contest Superintendent, submissions are then forwarded to the respective judges. All decisions of the Contest Superintendent are final. There is no appeal process or opportunity to resubmit once a submission is rejected. Therefore, students are encouraged to closely follow the instructions and view samples as instructed.
- **PLEASE FOLLOW THE ABSTRACT GUIDELINES FOR PREPARATION OF YOUR ABSTRACT.** 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.
- Any questions regarding the status of your entry or procedures of a specific contest should be directed to the contest superintendent (See below)

## **2024 CONTEST SUPERINTENDENTS**

*Overall Contests Supervisor*

Carlos Ortiz, Ph.D.

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*Undergraduate Oral Research Contest –  
Division I – Biological, Chemical, and  
Physical Sciences*

*Graduate Oral Research Contest– Division  
I Biological, Chemical, and Physical  
Sciences*

<p>Candiss Williams, Ph.D.  USDA NRCS  E-mail: <a href="mailto:candiss.williams@lin.usda.gov">candiss.williams@lin.usda.gov</a></p>	<p>TBD  Email:</p>
<p><i>Undergraduate Oral Research Contest – Division II - Education, Social Sciences, and Business</i></p> <p>Julie Plasencia, Ph.D.  University of Kentucky  E-mail: <a href="mailto:julieplasencia@uky.edu">julieplasencia@uky.edu</a></p>	<p><i>Graduate Oral Research Contest – Division II - Education, Social Sciences, and Business</i></p> <p>Lorraine Weatherspoon, Ph.D.  Michigan State University  E-mail: <a href="mailto:weathe43@anr.msu.edu">weathe43@anr.msu.edu</a></p>
<p><i>Undergraduate Research Poster Contest D1 &amp; DII</i></p> <p>Armitra Jackson-Davis, Ph.D.  Alabama A&amp;M University  E-mail: <a href="mailto:armitra.davis@gmail.com">armitra.davis@gmail.com</a></p>	<p><i>Graduate Research Poster Contest DI &amp; DII</i></p> <p>Dr. Brielle Mcelveen  USDA  E-mail: <a href="mailto:briellemcelveen@gmail.com">briellemcelveen@gmail.com</a></p>
<p><i>Three Minute Thesis</i></p> <p>Derris Devost-Burnett, Ph.D.  Mississippi State University  E-mail: <a href="mailto:ddb362@msstate.edu">ddb362@msstate.edu</a></p>	<p><i>Research Discussion Contest</i></p> <p>Ken Jones, Ph.D.  University of Kentucky  Email: <a href="mailto:kenrjones@uky.edu">kenrjones@uky.edu</a></p>
<p><i>Business Pitch Contest</i></p> <p>Elizabeth Brown  E-mail: <a href="mailto:elizabethbrowncec@gmail.com">elizabethbrowncec@gmail.com</a></p>	<p><i>Impromptu Speaking Contest</i></p> <p>Zachary Brown  Purdue University  E-mail: <a href="mailto:brow1688@purdue.edu">brow1688@purdue.edu</a></p>
<p><i>Undergraduate Public Speaking Contest</i></p> <p>Wash Jones, Ph.D.  Prairie View A&amp;M University,  E-mail: <a href="mailto:wajones@pvamu.edu">wajones@pvamu.edu</a></p>	<p><i>MANRRS Bowl</i></p> <p>Sharon Jean Philippe, Ph.D.  University of Tennessee-Knoxville  Email: <a href="mailto:jeanphil@utk.edu">jeanphil@utk.edu</a></p>
<p><i>Photography (prelim round) &amp; Theme Contest</i></p> <p>National Executive Committee  E-mail: <a href="mailto:ecsmall@manrrs.org">ecsmall@manrrs.org</a></p>	<p><i>Written Essay</i></p> <p>Brandon Pope  E-mail: <a href="mailto:bpope@anl.gov">bpope@anl.gov</a></p>

*Note: this schedule is tentative and subject to change*

## **ABSTRACT GUIDELINES**

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 by the posted deadline.
3. Capitalize the 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.

## **MANRRS OFFICIAL ABSTRACT SAMPLE:**

### **300 WORD ABSTRACT**

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.

## **PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST**

The purpose of the MANRRS Photography Contest is to provide MANRRS members the opportunity to express their love for agriculture and related sciences in an artistic form.

### **Contest Rules and Structure**

#### **Eligibility:**

- Any active MANRRS member

#### **Submission requirements:**



- A 300-word, 12-point font essay should elaborate on the art piece's inspiration and how it relates to MANRRS.
- All photographs must be the work of the individual MANRRS member as plagiarism is prohibited and violations of any copyright laws will result in disqualification from the contest.
- Photographs must be in one of the following formats: **.jpeg .jpg .pdf or .gif**
- Photographs may be in color OR black and white.

## **Judging guidelines:**

- The National Executive Committee will determine the top 5 photographs in the preliminary round to advance to Nationals
- The top 5 finalists' entries will be displayed and voted on by conference attendees via electronic voting
- The overall winner will be announced at the Closing Gala Dinner

# **MANRRS THEME CONTEST**

The MANRRS Executive Committee is soliciting your recommendations for the theme of the next Annual Training Conference and Career Expo. All MANRRS members are encouraged to enter this contest.

## **Contest Rules and Structure**

### **Eligibility:**

- Any active MANRRS member

### **The guidelines and rules for submitting a theme are as follows:**

1. All suggested themes should be related to the goals and objectives of MANRRS as the organization begins its next 30 + years.

2. Must include a 500-word essay (maximum) elaborating on what the theme means to the contestant and how it fits the MANRRS mission, history and future
3. Only one submission per member is allowed.

## **Judging guidelines:**

Submissions will be voted on by the National Executive Committee. The theme with the most votes will be announced at the Annual National Conference.

## **IMPROMPTU SPEAKING CONTEST**

The Impromptu Speaking Contest is designed to develop the ability of collegiate undergraduate MANRRS members to express themselves on a given subject without having prepared or rehearsed its content in advance. The contest provides an opportunity to grow public speaking skills and critical thinking as contestants formulate their speeches in a limited amount of time. The competition requires contestants to think quickly, present concisely and persuasively, and provide sufficient responses to questions posed by judges based on their speech.

## **Contest Rules and Structure**

1. The Impromptu Public Speaking Contest is divided into two divisions: 1) Regional Competitions and 2) National Competition. Regional competitions are limited to fifteen (15) total competitors per region with no more than two (2) competitors per Chapter. Independent collegiate undergraduate members of the society are permitted to participate in Regional Competitions but must provide proof of university enrollment within a state inside the general boundaries of the Region. Entry into the Regional Competitions requires “active” status as a member of the National Society, and is available on a first-come, first-served basis at the discretion of the Contest Superintendent. The first place and second-place winners of Regional Competitions, which occur during “Regional Clusters,” advance to the National Competition, which occurs during the “National Conference.”
2. The competition is based on a random selection of fifteen (15) topics that are related to current issues in agriculture, natural resources, and related sciences. The topics are decided by the Contest Superintendent and will only be shared with Contest

Judges and Contest Organizers/Host. A different list of speech topics is developed for the Regional and National Competition divisions. Contestants are randomly assigned a speech topic and presentation order by the Contest Superintendent for each Regional and National Competition divisions. The random topic and presentation assignment should be completed using randomization functions/tools on any computer software tool on any website. Contestants are given ten (10) minutes to prepare a speech based on their assigned topic. The table below provides an example depicting the structure of the contest.

<b>Contestant Name</b>	<b>Contestant Topic</b>	<b>Start of Preparation Period</b>	<b>Start of Competition Period</b>
Henry Arthur Callis	Does the protection of farm worker rights benefit agriculture production? Please create a response in the affirmative or negative.	1:00 PM	1:20 PM
Charles Henry Chapman	Traditional or culturally relevant foods have a place in all communities. Should their cultural importance be valued over the production of foods that feed large numbers of people regardless of cultural identity? Please create a response in the affirmative or negative.	1:10 PM	1:30 PM

- Contestants are given ten (10) minutes to prepare a two-to-four minute speech using any electronically available resources. Contestants are only permitted to craft their speech during their identified “preparation period.” They are not given their speech topic until the start of the “preparation period.” All contestants are required to prepare their speeches in an isolated space. They are not permitted to ask for assistance in any form. Contestants are responsible for ensuring their access to an electronic device capable of allowing them to prepare for the competition. Cell phones, tablets, laptops, and other electronic devices are permissible. Contestants are permitted to leave the preparation room to address physiological needs, but preparation time will not be extended. Contestants are permitted to write notes and/or draft their speech on provided note cards provided by the contest organizers. During the preparation time, each contestant will be given a 10-minute warning.

- a. In the event a contestant does not have access to an electronic device capable of searching the web due to socioeconomic issues, the contest superintendent should be contacted in advance to help identify a solution.
4. Each contestant will participate in a ten (10) minute “competition period.” During the “competition period,” contestants will deliver their two-to-four minute speech. At the one (1), two (2), and three (3) minute mark, the contestant will be given a warning card by the timekeeper. Any speech that exceeds four (4) minutes and forty-five (45) seconds will be immediately concluded by the timekeeper. One (1) point will be docked from contestants for every second over or under the speech time limit. At the conclusion of the speech, the judges will be given three (3) minutes to ask questions of the contestant related to the speech topic. The question period will end at the conclusion of three (3) minutes regardless of whether the contestant or judge has finished their response. The remaining time in the “competition period” is reserved for judges to complete the scoring of contestants. Judges should not discuss scoring with one another at this time.
5. Contestants who do not appear at the start of the designated “preparation period” are permitted to participate in the contest, but will not be given an additional “preparation period.” For example, if a contestant begins preparing at 1:10 PM, but does not appear until 1:20 PM, they will only have ten (10) minutes to complete the preparation for their contest. Contestants that miss fifteen (15) minutes or more of their “preparation period” are fully disqualified. No contestant should have their “preparation period” or “competition period” adjusted due to a missing competitor.
6. A National Officer, designated profession member, or the Contest Superintendent are responsible for the monitoring of the preparation room and contest room.
7. Contestants are required to dress in business casual clothing for the contest

## **Method of Selection a Winner**

1. The winner(s) of the Regional and National Competition divisions are decided by the highest total score based on the calculation of the Judge’s score sheets. The timekeeper is responsible for informing judges of any appropriate point deductions. A National Officer, designated professional member, or the Contest Superintendent will be responsible for calculating the final totals for the competition.
2. There must be an odd number of judges and a minimum of three total judges. The judges must have direct professional experience tied to agriculture, natural resources, and related sciences.
3. The first-place and second-place winners of the Regional Competitions and National Competition are identified as the two contestants with the highest total scores. In the event of a mathematical tie based on the score sheets, the contest Judges will be asked to vote on a final placement of the individual(s) that have tied. Judges are not permitted to abstain from the vote.
4. The contest is based on the scoring of the following seven areas:

- a. Knowledge of Subject - Knowledge of the Subject refers to the ability of the contestant to appear to fully comprehend their assigned speech topic regardless of actual background.
- b. Organization of Material - Organization of material refers to the structure of the speech from beginning to end; i.e. Is the speech in a logical order?
- c. Power of Expression - Power of expression refers to the ability of the contestant to impart a sense of feeling in their speech; i.e. Does the contestant sound impassioned about the topic?
- d. Voice - Voice refers to the speaking quality of the contestants voice; i.e. Was the contestant monotone, quiet, loud, etc.
- e. Stage Presence - Stage presence refers to the certain charisma and charm that a competitor possesses that draws in an audience and commands their full attention. Attire should also be considered part of stage presence.
- f. General Effect - General effect refers to whether the contestant's speech imparts any emotional or intellectual response on the judges.
- g. Response to Questions - Response to questions refers to the contestant's ability to create quick, critical, and appropriate responses to questions raised by judges.
- h. Time Deductions - Time deductions refers to any points lost by the contestant for going under or over the required speech length.



# **ORAL RESEARCH CONTEST**

This contest provides an opportunity for undergraduate and graduate students to gain exposure and experience presenting research before an audience. Graduate and undergraduate students will be judged in separate contests. Students should select the division they are submitting their research abstracts for competition:

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

The top ten contestants will be invited to present at the National Conference.

## **Contest Rules and Structure**

### **Eligibility:**

- Open to any active MANRRS undergraduate or graduate student member

### **Initial round:**

The abstract is evaluated prior to selecting the finalists who will compete at the National Conference. The abstract provides a brief overview of your research in 300 words or less, arranged in a single paragraph.

- The student's chapter advisor or faculty research advisor must certify the research is the work of the presenter. PLEASE FOLLOW THE GUIDELINES FOR PREPARATION OF YOUR ABSTRACT.
- 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.
- A minimum of two authors in the author block (a submission with one author will result in an automatic rejection);
- Abstracts will be evaluated based on the following:

## **Score Sheet (written abstract):**

<b>Contest:</b>	<b>Participant:</b>
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Written abstracts should be judged on the basis of the following criteria with a total of 50 points.	Maximum Points	Points Received
<p><b>Mechanics</b> The abstract contains proper spelling, grammar, complete sentences, syntax, diction, and is readable. Formatting guidelines followed</p> <p><b>Introduction</b> The abstract briefly states the subject of the investigation purpose of the project and its context.</p>	<p>10</p> <p>10</p>	<p>_____</p> <p>_____</p>
<p><b>Methods</b> The abstract identifies how the problem was studied and defines all jargon or acronyms.</p> <p><b>Results</b> The abstract has provided an explanation of what was discovered or produced using concise and specific detail.</p> <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>	<p>10</p> <p>10</p> <p>10</p>	<p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p>
<b>Total Possible Points</b>	<b>50</b>	_____
<b>Judge's Comments:</b>		

**Final round**

1. Ten contestants will be invited to present at the National Conference.
2. Invitations to present are based on the abstracts scores - top 10 scores are invited.
3. Each presentation will be 8 minutes, an additional 2 minutes are provided for questions and answers. Time penalties will be assessed if the presentation goes beyond 8 minutes.
4. All presentations should include
  - a. Background/Overview/Introduction/Statement of the Problem
  - b. Objective(s)



- c. Hypothesis
  - d. Methodology
  - e. Results
  - f. Discussion and Conclusion
5. Presentations are evaluated using the following criteria

## Rubric (Oral research):

Category	Description	Points
Research	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Overall, the problem, goal/ hypothesis, methods, results, conclusions are very clear; main points are thoroughly and concisely presented. Introduction/background gives very clear perspective of problem. Hypotheses/aims are very clearly stated and highly relevant to the problem.</li> <li>● Research methods are very appropriate for testing the hypothesis and clearly described; statistical methods/analysis are used and clearly described.</li> <li>● Results 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. Discussion and Conclusion is very related to the aim and results. Does an excellent job putting the results in the context of the problem.</li> </ul>	10
Presentation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Slides are very visually appealing; not cluttered; colors and patterns enhance readability. Content is clearly arranged in a logical sequence so that the viewer can follow order without narration. Font sizes/ variations are consistent and appropriately support readability. Graphics (e.g. tables, figures, etc.) are very readable, clearly labeled, engaging; significantly enhances the text; There are no typos, spelling and/or grammar mistakes.</li> </ul>	10
Delivery	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Overall delivery (posture, gesture, eye contact, and vocal expressiveness) makes the presentation compelling.</li> <li>● Speaker appears very prepared, is polished, and confident, uses a clear voice, correct pronunciations and appropriate terminology. Maintains eye contact- with no dependence on notes.</li> </ul>	20
Handling of Questions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Presenter is at ease with all questions and provides clarity through responses.</li> </ul>	10

**Time penalties – 8 minute presentations - 5 points removed for going over 1 min – 2 points for each additional minute over.**

## Judging guidelines:

Preferred criteria for judges:

- Division I – Biological, Chemical and Physical Sciences
  - Individual must be a working Professional
  - At minimum, professional must have a M.S. in the field of biology, chemistry, physical science or related fields
  - Preferably someone who is currently conducting research
  
- Division II – Education, Social Sciences and Business
  - Individual must be a working Professional
  - At minimum, professional must have a M.S. in the field of education, social science, business or related fields
  - Preferably someone who is currently conducting research

## PUBLIC SPEAKING CONTEST

This contest provides an opportunity for undergraduate students to gain experience in expressing themselves orally before an audience. This contest has two rounds. Selection of the top 6 submissions will compete at the National Conference in front of a panel of 3-4 judges and answer questions.

## Contest Rules and Structure

### Eligibility:

- Open to any active MANRRS undergraduate student member

### Initial round:

All speeches must pertain to the conference theme: *Collaborate. Cultivate. Motivate.*

- All submissions MUST include a pdf. transcript of the speech, including references, and an electronic link to your video presentation.
- Video submission of speech shall be between 6-8 minutes in length. Speeches will be penalized for being under 6 minutes and without much substance.

- Please state your name and university before your speech.
- Please film in a well-lit room. Make sure the audio and sound is clear and keep the camera view wide enough so your entire body and any equipment involved is completely visible.

**Final round:**

A contestant needs to score a minimum of 80 points on the initial entry to be considered for the final round. Selection of the top 6 submissions will compete in the final round, in-person, at the National Training Conference and Career Fair.

Contestants will be notified by the contest superintendent prior to the conference if they have qualified to compete at the final round. The final round of judging shall be conducted at the National Training Conference and Career Fair, by professional members. The top 6 contestants will each get 8 minutes to present their speech and 2 minutes to answer questions.

**Judging guidelines:**

Preferred criteria for judges:

- Individual must be a working Professional
- At minimum, professional must possess a B.S. from any discipline
- Strong writing, editing skills and oral presentation skills
- Preferably someone with previous public speaking experience

Judges will be furnished with copies of the contestants’ 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, and use of references.

**Score sheet:**

<b>Participant:</b>
A contestant needs to score a minimum of 80 points on the initial entry to be considered for the final round. A committee will select six finalists from the pool of contestants scoring more than 80 points on their initial entry.

	Maximum Points	Points Received
<u><b>CONTENT RELATED TO TOPIC</b></u> 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	_____
<u><b>STYLE</b></u> Style includes the adherence to the rules and structure requirements listed in the guidelines. Speech is 6-8 min long, audio, screen, and sound are clear.	10	_____
<u><b>ORGANIZATION AND LOGIC</b></u> 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.	20	_____
<u><b>CLARITY OF EXPRESSION</b></u> 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	_____
<u><b>USE OF REFERENCES</b></u> Use of references includes the importance and appropriateness of the references, suitability of the material used, and the accuracy of the statements included.	10	_____
<u><b>ELOCUTION</b></u> Speaker is clearly prepared and knowledgeable of the topic. Speech is eloquent, with minimal to no filler words. Eye contact is held.	20	_____
<u><b>RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS (Final Round Only)</b></u> Speaker responds to judges' questions with a clear demonstration of topic.	15	_____
<b>Total Possible Points</b>	100 (initial round) 115 (final round)	_____
<b>Contestant Rank:</b>		
<b>Judge's Comments:</b>		

# **MANRRS BOWL**

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

**Eligibility:** Any active MANRRS collegiate chapter

## **Layout of MANRRS Bowl**

1. Chapters organize teams within 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.

## **MANRRS Bowl Set-up**

- 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.
- (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)
- (2-3) Judges (Advisors/Professionals who are not associated with any team in the competition)
- (1) Scorekeeper/Timekeeper: (Individual from industry or Jr. MANRRS)
- (3-4) Event set up and take down staff (Jr. MANRRS/National Student Officers/Ambassadors)

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 provides 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.

- Questions will consist of categories within MANRRS
- The moderator will read the question (following the pre-determined correct numerical order) and the team will buzz in to give their answer.

- 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:**

- 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.
- 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).
- If the correct answer is given, that team receives two points.
- If a wrong answer is given, the competing team will have five seconds to provide the correct answer, if they choose.
- Each team has only one chance to answer each question
- Providing an incorrect answer does not result in a point reduction for either team.
- 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.
- Substituting the captain will result in the new replacement captain assuming the position of team captain for the remainder of the competition.

**Tiebreaker:**

- This shall occur if there is a tie at the end of 21 questions asked.
- The tiebreaker will consist of five questions not be opened by the moderator unless a tie occurs at the end of 21 questions asked.
- 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.
- 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.
- For each correct answer during the tiebreaker round, one point will still be awarded

## **Participant Rules:**

- 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.
- 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.
- The moderator Participants must verbally recognize you before answering any question.
- If an individual proceeds to answer a question before verbal recognition has occurred, deduct one point from their team score.

## **Challenging a Question:**

- Any member of a team may initiate a challenge based on the question content or application of the rules.
- Challenges must occur before the moderator finishes reading the next question.
- You can bring Challenges to the moderator's attention by stating, "challenge" after the moderator acknowledges you.
- Judges have the final ruling on all challenges.
- A team may not make more than two unsuccessful challenges per round.
- The moderator will discard the question if a challenge is sustained. No team will lose/gain points.

## **MANRRS Bowl Categories & Questions:**

- Questions are derived from subjects within MANRRS (these being the top majors in MANRRS plus MANRRS Trivia, History, Facts, Constitution, etc.).
- 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
  - d. Parliamentarian Procedure/ Roberts Rules of Order

- For MANRRS Bowl Competitions, questions will come from the MANRRS Bowl pool of questions.
- Each year, questions are added to the MANRRS Bowl pool of questions.
- 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.
- MANRRS Bowl Committee members will review all questions prior to the competition.
- 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.

## Judging guidelines:

- (2) Judges: Chapter advisors or grad students not associated with the competing teams or professors from a local university:
  - Judges will serve in such capacity prior to the competition.
  - Judges will serve as the individuals who oversee the competition and any such challenges that may arise with questions/rules during the competition.
  - 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.
- (1) Moderator: Current/Past National Student Officers or Advisors within MANRRS not associated with any of the universities in competition:
  - The moderator will serve in such capacity prior to the competition.
  - The moderator is responsible for asking all questions and for designating the first buzzed-in individual to answer the question.
  - An answer can be challenged by the moderator and will refer directly and immediately to the judges for a ruling on this matter.
  - 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.
- (1) Scorekeeper/Timer: An industry individual participating in the Regional Cluster Workshop/Conference and/or Jr. MANRRS member (no association with the competing teams).
  - The scorekeeper is in charge of keeping score during the game. If there is a question concerning the scorekeeper's scoring, the judges shall handle it and they shall provide their final ruling to assist in the progress of the game.
  - 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.

## **Event set-up and Takedown:**

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

## **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 effectively communicate in the workplace and in leadership and management positions. A panel of 3-5 judges, 1 timekeeper, and 1 moderator will review the contestants at the National Conference.

### **Contest Rules and Structure**

#### **Eligibility:**

- Open to any active MANRRS undergraduate or graduate student member

#### **Initial round:**

To qualify for the contest, each potential contestant must submit a short summary for review. The top five to seven summaries will be selected as semifinalists and the students will be invited to compete in the Research Discussion Contest at the National Conference.

All students who wish to become semifinalists must prepare an essay, responding to the following question:

**Explain how a researcher’s experience can help address inequities affecting agriculture, natural resources, and related sciences?**

Please prepare your essay as instructed below:

1. Essays must be typed with single spacing except between title and body of the paper. Each page should have a one-inch margin on all sides.
2. Essays must be a maximum of 500 words and must include:
  - a. An introductory paragraph
  - b. Body of the paper
  - c. Concluding paragraph
  - d. Please do not include graphs, charts, plots, tables, illustrations, or references in the essay.

**Score sheet (Essay):**

<b>Participant:</b>		
<b>WRITTEN PRESENTATION</b>		
Preliminary judges will score the essays and select 5-7 semifinalists to compete at National Conference		
	<b>Maximum Points</b>	<b>Points Received</b>
<u><b>CONTENT RELATED TO TOPIC</b></u> 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.	<b>30</b>	_____
<u><b>OPENING PARAGRAPH</b></u> Opening paragraph includes how well the opening catches the attention of the reader and how it leads into the body of the essay.	<b>15</b>	_____
<u><b>ORGANIZATION AND LOGIC</b></u> 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.	<b>30</b>	_____
<u><b>CLARITY OF EXPRESSION</b></u> 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.	<b>10</b>	_____

<b><u>CLOSING PARAGRAPH</u></b> Closing paragraph includes how well the closing summarizes the writer's information and how it ties the content of the essay together.	<b>15</b>	_____
<b>Total Possible Points</b>	<b>100</b>	
<b>Contestant Rank:</b>		
<b>Judge's Comments:</b>		

**Final round:**

The semifinalists will receive 2-3 research articles to review prior to the conference. One of the articles will serve as the topic of discussion for the contest. Contestants will be judged by a panel of 3-5 judges based on the following criteria:

<b>Contestant:</b> _____		
	<b>Maximum Points</b>	<b>Points Received</b>
<b>Definitions:</b> How well did the participant know or can relate to the topic?	<b>10</b>	
<b>Analysis of topic or subject</b> – Was the participant able to identify issues, raise factual points, and stay on track? Did he/she accurately interpret the material or data presented?	<b>15</b>	
<b>Presentation of research material and identification of issues</b> – Was the participant able to present and discuss material in the discussion in a logical flow and move the discussion forward to increase understanding by others?	<b>15</b>	
<b>Delivery</b> – Was voice quality, projection, enunciation, interaction, desirable sentence structure and vocabulary adequate?	<b>15</b>	
<b>Cooperative attitude</b> – Was the participant listening, asking	<b>15</b>	

pertinent questions, airing all points of view, summarizing, minimizing major differences and showing respect for others?		
<b>Total effectiveness</b> (general evaluation) - Was there overall contribution to the discussion by the participant?	<b>15</b>	
<b>Quality of responses to questions from the audience and/or judges</b> – Was there demonstrated knowledge, relevance, confidence, and interactive ability?	<b>15</b>	
<b>Total Points</b>	<b>100</b>	
<b>Contestant's Rank:</b>		
<b>Judge's Comments:</b>		

## Judging guidelines:

Preferred criteria for judges:

- The individual must be a working Professional;
- At a minimum, judges and moderators must possess a M.S. in the field of biology, chemistry, physical science, education, social science, business or related fields; and preferably,
- Preferably, the professional is currently conducting research

Note: No degree is required for the timekeeper

# WRITTEN ESSAY CONTEST

This contest provides an opportunity for undergraduate students to gain experience in expressing themselves, through writing. Essays will be judged by a panel of 3-5 judges and the winners will be selected prior to the National Contest.

## Contest Rules and Structure

### Eligibility:

- Open to any active MANRRS undergraduate student member

Essay Prompt: **Choose a grand challenge facing agriculture, natural resources, and related sciences and formulate a novel solution to address the issue.**

### Instructions for essay preparation:

- Essays should be typewritten with one-inch margins and saved in a pdf file.
- To assure anonymity in reviewing, repeat only the title at the top of the first page.
- Number the pages of the essay
- Limit body of essay to six (6) typewritten, double-spaced pages. Cover page and references are not included in the page count.
- Appropriate citations must be used.
- A minimum of three references (not including the manual, if used) should be documented
- Essay format must conform to the American Psychological Association (APA) writing style
  - Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association
  - Purdue University's writing center website has a freely available tips for APA writing (<https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/560/01/>)

## Score sheet (Essay):

Participant:		
Written essays should be judged on the basis of the following criteria with a 100 point scale:	Maximum Points	Points Received
<u>CONTENT RELATED TO TOPIC</u>	10	
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.		

<b><u>STYLE</u></b> Style includes the adherence to the rules of style listed in the Rules for Essay Preparation and Submission.	<b>10</b>	_____
<b><u>OPENING PARAGRAPH</u></b> Opening paragraph includes how well the opening catches the attention of the reader and how it leads into the body of the essay.	<b>10</b>	_____
<b><u>ORGANIZATION AND LOGIC</u></b> 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.	<b>30</b>	_____
<b><u>CLARITY OF EXPRESSION</u></b> 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.	<b>30</b>	_____
<b><u>USE OF REFERENCES</u></b> Use of references includes the importance and appropriateness of the references, suitability of the material used, and the accuracy of the statements included.	<b>10</b>	_____
<b>Total Possible Points</b>	<b>100</b>	
<b>Judge's Comments:</b>		

## Judging guidelines:

Preferred criteria for judges:

- Individual must be a working Professional
- At minimum, the professional must possess a B.S. from any discipline
- Strong writing and editing skills



# **3 MIN THESIS CONTEST**

The Three Minute Thesis (3MT ®) competition was developed by The University of Queensland (UQ) to celebrate the exciting research conducted by Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) students. The contest was developed to cultivate students' academic, presentation, and research communication skills. The MANRRS 3MT has been adapted to provide this opportunity to all graduate student members in good standing within the national organization. The competition supports their capacity to effectively explain their research in three minutes, in a language appropriate to a non-specialist audience.

## **Contest Rules and Structure**

### **Eligibility:**

- Open to any active MANRRS graduate student members pursuing masters or doctoral level degrees

The competitors are not permitted to edit their abstract or presentation in any way. Participants are permitted to change the content of the verbal speech associated with their presentation at their own discretion. The presentation must continue to remain within the three minute time range.

### **Abstract Requirements:**

The Superintendent reserves the right to reject a submission if it does not meet the established guidelines shown below:

- All abstracts and presentations must be submitted electronically via the MANRRS website Contest Submission Page by the deadline.
- Abstracts must be prepared according to the general guidelines for MANRRS abstract submissions.
- All abstracts should be in Microsoft Word format.
- All presentations should be in PowerPoint format.

3MT abstracts should be prepared as follows:

- The author presenting the 3MT must be denoted by an asterisk (\*) at the end of his/her full name.
- The author should be the first author and the work must be original.
- The College/University and location should be listed following the name.

- The abstract should present a general overview for the student’s thesis or dissertation project.
- Do not include graphs, charts, plots, tables, illustrations or references in the abstract.
- Include three keywords to describe the project. At least one of the keywords must be taken from the title of the paper.

**Presentation Guidelines:**

- A single static PowerPoint slide is permitted. No slide transitions, animations or ‘movement’ of any description are allowed. The slide is to be presented from the beginning of the oration. Slides note are not permitted for use during the presentation.
- The slide should be a standard size based on the widescreen 16:9 landscape format.
- No additional electronic media (e.g. sound and video files) are permitted.
- No additional props (e.g. costumes, musical instruments, laboratory equipment) are permitted.
- Presentations are limited to 3 minutes maximum and competitors exceeding 3 minutes are disqualified.
- Presentations are to be spoken word (e.g. no poems, raps or songs).
- Presentations are to commence from the “stage”.
- Presentations are considered to have commenced when a presenter starts their presentation through either movement or speech.

**Score sheet:**

<b>Contest:</b>	<b>Participant:</b>	
<b>Written abstracts and poster should be judged on the basis of the following criteria:</b>	<b>Maximum Points</b>	<b>Points Received</b>
<b><u>PRESENTATION OF RESEARCH</u></b>		
<b>Introduction</b> <i>(include in abstract score)</i>	<b>10</b>	_____
<b>Hypotheses/Aim</b> <i>(include in abstract score)</i>	<b>10</b>	_____
<b>Research Methods</b> <i>(include in abstract score)</i>	<b>10</b>	_____
<b>Results</b> <i>(include in abstract score)</i>	<b>10</b>	_____
<b>Discussion and Conclusion</b> <i>(include in abstract score)</i>	<b>10</b>	_____

<u>VISUAL ATTRACTIVENESS, ORGANIZATION AND MECHANICS</u>  <b>Content clarity &amp; error free</b> <i>(include in abstract score)</i> <b>Graphics &amp; visuals</b>	  <b>10</b> <b>10</b>	  <hr/> <hr/>
<u>ELOCUTION</u>  <b>Speaker Preparation and eloquence</b> <b>Eye Contact and knowledge</b>	  <b>10</b> <b>10</b>	  <hr/> <hr/>
<u>HANDLING OF QUESTIONS</u>  <b>Presenter demonstrates knowledge and ease in providing responses</b>	  <b>10</b>	  <hr/>
<b>Total Points</b>	 <b>60</b> <b>(Abstract)</b>  <b>100 (Presentation)</b>	
<b>Judge's Comments:</b>		

## **BUSINESS PITCH**

Have an idea for a new business or non-profit you would like to start? Then enter the MANRRS Business Pitch Competition! This competition represents a significant step towards fostering innovation and empowering underrepresented voices. Contestants will have 5 minutes to describe an original idea and why you think it will change your university, local community, or the world. Your business does not have to exist just yet, but the idea & pitch must relate to agriculture, natural resources and/or environmental businesses or nonprofits. Think “Shark Tank” meets MANRRS! Instead of asking for an investment, our judges will award the top presenter with prize money.

# Contest Rules and Structure

## Eligibility:

- Open to any active MANRRS undergraduate or graduate student member
- Applications may be submitted by individuals, or by teams of up to 4 people. However, only one person will present to the judges.

## Application process:

Applicants must submit an online application consisting of:

- Presenter's name, school or professional affiliation, and LinkedIn profile.
- Description of the business or non-profit which addresses each of the five elements listed below (maximum of 500 words).
  - Name of the proposed business or non-profit
  - Mission/Purpose
  - Size of the opportunity/problem to be solved
  - How this new business will meet the need/solve the problem (products or services to be offered and business model)

Please do not submit confidential or proprietary information (such as computer code, or invention descriptions if not patented). As in the real investment/funding world, ideas are not treated as confidential- it is the entrepreneurs own ability to execute that is the differentiating factor.

## Presentation requirements and process:

Presenters will pitch their business idea to a panel of 3-5 judges and 1 timekeeper. The presenter may use PowerPoint slides. Presentations should include with the following elements:

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

Each presentation will be followed by 5 minutes of Q&A from the panel of judges.

## Score sheet:

Name of Product/Business/Non-Profit:		
	Maximum Points	Points Received
<u>CONTENT</u> Business idea relates to natural resources, agriculture or related-sciences sectors	10	
<u>INNOVATION</u> Idea stands out and is innovative	10	_____
<u>MISSION STATEMENT</u> Business mission statement is clear and compelling	10	_____
<u>SIZE OF MARKET OPPORTUNITY/PROBLEM</u> Answered in specific terms (e.g. either a quantitative or qualitative clear description of whom the business is targeting)	10	_____
<u>BROADER IMPACT</u> Business idea elaborates not just on what the problem is, but how this new business will address that problem through its products or services	10	_____
<b>Total Possible Points</b>	<b>50</b>	_____
<b>Judge's Comments:</b>		

## Judging guidelines:

Preferred criteria for judges:

- The individual must be a working Professional;

Note: No degree is required for the timekeeper

# **RESEARCH POSTER CONTEST**

This contest provides an opportunity for undergraduate and graduate students to gain exposure and experience presenting research in poster form, before an audience. Graduate and undergraduate students will be judged in separate contests. Students should select the division they are submitting their research abstracts for competition:

- Division I: Biological, Chemical, and Physical Sciences
  - Undergraduate
  - Graduate
- Division II: Education, Social Sciences and Business
  - Undergraduate
  - Graduate

## **Contest Rules and Structure**

### **Eligibility:**

- Open to any active MANRRS undergraduate or graduate student member

### **Entry Information**

After the submission deadline, the Contest Superintendent will review all abstract submissions. The main criteria that the Contest Judges will use to evaluate the abstract entries 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); and
4. Writing quality including sentence structure, grammar, punctuation, clarity and proper citation of sources.

The Contest Superintendent reserves the right to reject any abstract submission.

### **Initial round:**

The abstract is evaluated prior to selecting the finalists who will compete at the National Conference. The abstract provides a brief overview of your research in 300 words or less, arranged in a single paragraph.

- The student’s chapter advisor or faculty research advisor must certify the research is the work of the presenter.
- PLEASE FOLLOW THE GUIDELINES FOR PREPARATION OF YOUR ABSTRACT.
  - 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.
- Abstracts will be evaluated based on the following:

## Score Sheet (written abstract):

<b>Contest:</b>	<b>Participant:</b>	
<b>Written abstracts should be judged on the basis of the following criteria with a total of 50 points.</b>	<b>Maximum Points</b>	<b>Points Received</b>
<b>Mechanics</b> The abstract contains proper spelling, grammar, complete sentences, syntax, diction, and is readable. Formatting guidelines followed	<b>10</b>	_____
<b>Introduction</b> The abstract briefly states the subject of the investigation purpose of the project and its context.	<b>10</b>	_____
<b>Methods</b> The abstract identifies how the problem was studied and defines all jargon or acronyms.	<b>10</b>	_____
<b>Results</b> The abstract has provided an explanation of what was discovered or produced using concise and specific detail.	<b>10</b>	_____
<b>Conclusion</b> The abstract interprets the results, evaluates what the results mean to the project, and defines the context within the field.	<b>10</b>	_____

<b>Total Possible Points</b>	<b>50</b>	_____
<b>Judge's Comments:</b>		

**Final round**

1. The top ten contestants in each division and classification (undergraduate or graduate) will be invited to create a poster based on their abstract and present at the National Conference.
2. Presentations will be judged based on the score sheet provided below.

**Poster Requirements**

- Poster must be 2 feet high by 3 feet wide (24 x 36). 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.
- Posters will NOT be printed on site.
- Lettering for the heading must be at least 1 inch in height. Lettering for authors, and sponsoring institutions must be at least 3/4 inch high. All other fonts must be at least 1/4 inch high. The poster must be readable from 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 figures and tables must be at least 1/4 inch high. Sizes of figures or tables will vary, but it should not be less than 8" x 10". Back lighted photographs, sound or projection equipment, and freestanding displays are prohibited.
- DO NOT submit a copy of the poster with the initial submission.

**Presenter Tips:**

- Note: display boards will be provided at the National Conference.
- Be sure to have all materials prepared before arriving at the conference. The time allocated during the conference is not the appropriate time for preparing or designing the poster.



- Do not stand directly in front of the poster. Please allow viewing space for spectators and judges.
- All posters must be displayed before the contest starts. Late posters will not be added or considered after the contest evaluation period has begun, as this is disruptive and unfair to the contest participants and judges.
- Carry the 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.
- Come prepared with any relevant handouts you may wish to share (such as a copy of the poster printed on 8.5" x 11" paper).
- Bring your business card!
- Prepare a brief (about 1.5 min) overview and discussion of your project.
- Have fun! You're the expert of this work and your judges and spectators are excited to learn from you!

## Score sheet (presentation):

<b>Contest:</b>	<b>Participant:</b>		
<b>Poster Presentations should be judged on the basis of the following criteria:</b>		<b>Maximum Points</b>	<b>Points Received</b>
<u><b>PRESENTATION &amp; KNOWLEDGE OF RESEARCH</b></u>			
<b>Introduction</b>		<b>10</b>	_____
<b>Hypotheses/Aim</b>		<b>10</b>	_____
<b>Research Methods</b>		<b>10</b>	_____
<b>Results</b>		<b>10</b>	_____
<b>Discussion and Conclusion</b>		<b>10</b>	_____
<u><b>VISUAL ATTRACTIVENESS, ORGANIZATION AND MECHANICS</b></u>			
<b>Poster Visuals and Graphics</b>		<b>10</b>	_____
<b>Content Clarity, Technical Writing Skills, and Grammar (error free)</b>		<b>10</b>	_____
			_____

<u>ELOCUTION</u>		
Speaker Preparation and Eloquence Eye Contact, Posture, Body Language	10 10	_____ _____ _____
<u>HANDLING OF QUESTIONS</u>		
Presenter demonstrated ease and knowledge in providing responses	10	_____
<b>Total Points</b>	<b>100</b>	
Judge's Comments:		

## Judging guidelines:

Preferred criteria for judges:

- Individual must be a working Professional
- At minimum, professional must have a Masters degree in the field of biology, chemistry, physical science, education, social science, business or related fields
- Preferably someone who has conducted or is currently conducting research