

2026 MANRRS LEADERSHIP ACADEMY

Chapter Guide for Undergraduate Delegates

Thursday–Saturday, September 24–26, 2026
Hyatt Regency Atlanta | 265 Peachtree St. NE, Atlanta, GA 30303

Congratulations: You're In!

The MANRRS Leadership Academy is a competitive, application-only program, and every delegate attending applied and was selected to be here. If your chapter has members joining this program, they've already distinguished themselves as high-achieving, engaged leaders within MANRRS. This guide walks your chapter through what to expect over the three days so your delegates can arrive prepared and get the most out of the experience.

Share this guide with every accepted delegate from your chapter and encourage them to read it fully before traveling.

Event at a Glance

- **Dates:** Thursday, September 24 – Saturday, September 26, 2026
- **Location:** Hyatt Regency Atlanta, 265 Peachtree St. NE, Atlanta, GA 30303
- **Hotel Rate:** \$225.94/night (taxes included) via the official MANRRS room block: [book here](#)
- **Registration:** www.manrrs.org/leadership-academy/general-info
- **Expected Attendance:** Approximately 250–300 undergraduate students, graduate students, faculty advisors, and industry professionals nationwide.

Reminder: Chapters are responsible for their own delegates' travel and hotel booking. Book early: the room block is shared across all attending chapters and can be filled before the deadline.

Who's Attending

Delegates in this program met the following criteria at the time of application:

- Sophomore, junior, senior, or graduate student at an accredited college or university
- Minimum cumulative GPA of 2.8 (3.0+ preferred)
- Demonstrated leadership through campus involvement, community service, student organizations, research, or internships
- Committed to advancing their professional and leadership development

Delegates will be alongside equally driven peers from agriculture, natural resources, environmental science, food science, engineering, agribusiness, animal science, plant science, biotechnology, forestry, and related STEM fields, giving them a strong network to build forward.

Full Schedule

Thursday, September 24

Time	Session
3:00 PM – 6:00 PM	Registration
6:30 PM – 7:30 PM	Opening Welcome Session
7:30 PM – 9:30 PM	The MANRRS Meet-Up: Networking Reception

Friday, September 25

Time	Session
7:30 AM – 9:00 AM	Registration
7:30 AM – 9:00 AM	Opportunity Fair Exhibitor Setup
8:30 AM – 9:15 AM	Morning Fireside Chat w/ Industry Leaders
9:30 AM – 11:30 AM	Research Symposium / Mock Interviews
12:00 PM – 1:00 PM	Lunch-N-Learn Roundtable
1:10 PM – 2:00 PM	Workshop Session I: Career Readiness
2:10 PM – 3:00 PM	Workshop Session II: Soft Skills
3:00 PM – 5:00 PM	Opportunity Fair
5:30 PM – 8:30 PM	Explore Atlanta

Saturday, September 26

Time	Session
7:30 AM – 8:20 AM	Networking Breakfast
8:30 AM – 9:20 AM	Workshop Session III: Finance
9:30 AM – 10:20 AM	Workshop Session IV: Leadership Development

10:30 AM – 11:30 AM	Workshop Session V: MANRRS AI Solutions Lab (Technical Skills)
11:30 AM – 12:00 PM	Closing Session: Commitment to Action

Understanding the Workshop Tracks

Each of the five workshop sessions runs four tracks at once, split by class standing. As undergraduates, your delegates should follow Track A (Sophomores/Juniors) or Track B (Seniors) depending on their year. The Graduate and Professional tracks (C and D) are listed here too, since some chapters bring graduate members or advisors.

Workshop I: Career Readiness (Fri, 1:10–2:00 PM)

- Track A (Sophomores/Juniors): The Job Search Toolkit: Resume & Interview Essentials
- Track B (Seniors): The Graduate Pathway: Navigating Your Next Steps
- Track C (Graduate): Translating Your Graduate Experience Beyond Academia
- Track D (Professionals): Navigating Workforce Changes

Workshop II: Soft Skills (Fri, 2:10–3:00 PM)

- Track A (Sophomores/Juniors): The Power Skills Lab: Why 'Soft' Skills Are the New Hard Currency
- Track B (Seniors): The Cultural Compass: Learn How to Navigate Professional Workspaces
- Track C (Graduate): Designing the Life You Want After Graduate School
- Track D (Professionals): Working Genius

Workshop III: Finance (Sat, 8:30–9:20 AM)

- Track A (Sophomores/Juniors): The Power of Your Pocket
- Track B (Seniors): The Geography of Opportunity: Where Your Career Can Take You
- Track C (Graduate): Funding Your Graduate Journey and Research Success
- Track D (Professionals): The Art of Grant Writing

Workshop IV: Leadership Development (Sat, 9:30–10:20 AM)

- Track A (Sophomores/Juniors): Lead Through Complexity: Building Influence When You Don't Have Authority
- Track B (Seniors): The Collaboration Equation: How High-Performing Teams Actually Work
- Track C (Graduate): Leading Yourself Through Academic Adversity
- Track D (Professionals): How to Effectively Mentor the Now Generation

Workshop V: MANRRS AI Solutions Lab, Technical Skills (Sat, 10:30–11:30 AM)

- Track A (Sophomores/Juniors): Building the Future Food System (Case Study)
- Track B (Seniors): From Candidate to Consultant (Case Study)
- Track C (Graduate): Research to Real-World Impact (Case Study)
- Track D (Professionals): Leading AI Transformation (Case Study)

What to Expect at Key Events

Opening Welcome Session & Networking Reception (Thur.)

Sets the tone for the Academy and introduces the cohort. Come ready to meet delegates from chapters across the country. This is the first of many networking touchpoints.

Fireside Chat w/ Industry Leaders (Fri. AM)

A candid, moderated conversation with industry professionals. Encourage delegates to prepare a thoughtful question in advance in case audience Q&A opens up.

Research Symposium / Mock Interviews (Fri. AM)

Delegates with research to present should bring any required materials (posters, slides, or summaries) per instructions from the Academy team. Delegates signed up for mock interviews should treat them as the real thing: dress professionally and bring a resume.

Lunch-N-Learn Roundtable (Fri. Midday)

A smaller, table-based networking format with industry hosts. Good opportunity for delegates to ask career-specific questions in a lower-pressure setting.

Opportunity Fair (Fri. Afternoon)

Employers and graduate programs will be tabling to recruit for internships, co-ops, graduate programs, and full-time roles. This is one of the highest-value parts of the Academy, so delegates should treat it as a real recruiting event, not a casual walkthrough.

Explore Atlanta (Fri. Evening)

Unstructured time to experience the city as a group. Confirm with the Academy team or your advisor on logistics/curfew expectations before delegates head out.

Networking Breakfast (Sat. AM)

Relationship-building starts on the final day, and another chance to connect with peers, alumni, and professionals before the closing workshops.

Closing Session: Commitment to Action (Sat. 11:30 AM–12:00 PM)

Every delegate will complete a short card or digital form called "My Next Leadership Commitment," capturing:

- One leadership behavior they'll practice
- One AI tool they'll integrate into their work or studies
- One relationship they'll build through MANRRS
- One action they'll take within the next 30 days

Chapters should plan to follow up on these commitments after the Academy. Consider having delegates report back to the chapter at the next meeting.

How Delegates Should Prepare

Professional Materials

- Bring 15–20 printed copies of an updated resume (needed for mock interviews, the Research Symposium, and the Opportunity Fair)
- Business cards, if available, are a plus for networking and the Opportunity Fair
- A padfolio or notebook for taking notes during workshops and employer conversations

Attire

- Business professional attire for the Opportunity Fair, mock interviews, and Fireside Chat
- Business casual is generally appropriate for workshops and the Networking Breakfast
- Comfortable clothing/shoes for Explore Atlanta

Before Arriving

- Research employers and graduate programs attending the Opportunity Fair and identify 3–5 priority conversations
- Practice a 30-second self-introduction ("elevator pitch")
- Confirm hotel and travel arrangements are booked under the MANRRS group rate
- Coordinate with chapter advisors on any chapter-specific expectations, funding reimbursement, or reporting requirements
- Review the workshop track list above and note which sessions apply to each delegate's class standing

Funding & Travel

Costs (travel, lodging, and any applicable registration fees) are coordinated at the chapter level. Chapters should confirm early with their advisor or chapter treasurer whether chapter funds, university funds, or MANRRS scholarship support will cover delegate expenses, since the room block and travel arrangements should be locked in well ahead of September.

Quick Pre-Departure Checklist

- Registration confirmed on www.manrrs.org/leadership-academy/general-info
- Hotel booked through the official Hyatt Regency Atlanta group link
- Travel arrangements booked and shared with chapter advisor
- Resume printed (15–20 copies)
- Business professional and business casual outfits packed
- Research completed on Opportunity Fair employers/programs
- Elevator pitch practiced
- Questions prepared for the Fireside Chat and Lunch-N-Learn

Questions about this guide or the Academy? Reach out to your chapter advisor or the MANRRS national office.