



# **Peanut Leadership Academy Application**

## **2026-27 – Class XIV**

**[www.southernpeanutfarmers.org](http://www.southernpeanutfarmers.org)**

### **Program Objective**

To provide training opportunities, develop and improve leadership skills and industry understanding for United States peanut growers, as well as sheller representatives.

### **Sponsorship**

The Peanut Leadership Academy is an education project coordinated by the Southern Peanut Farmers Federation and sponsored by Syngenta Crop Protection and the American Peanut Shellers Association.

### **Curriculum**

Activities are structured to give participants a thorough understanding of the U.S. peanut industry. Participants spend approximately 20 days participating in field trips, meetings with industry leadership and professional development training concentrated in the following program areas: government affairs, peanuts and international markets, policy development, professional development, research and marketing, and U.S. peanut industry.

### **Eligibility Requirements**

Candidates must:

- 1) Derive their primary livelihood from farming and currently produce peanuts.
- 2) Be preferably between the ages of 22 and 45 on or before July 1, 2025.
- 3) Make a commitment to the Peanut Leadership Academy and agree to attend all sessions (approximately 20 days of travel), regardless of state affiliation, except in time of illness or family emergency.
- 4) Abide by PLA Participant Handbook.
- 5) Not participate in another leadership program during the same timeframe as the PLA program.
- 6) Provide a completed application.

### **Cost to Participate**

Participants cover local transportation to and from meetings (i.e. transportation to airport and to local events), as well as occasional meals. Costs for extracurricular activities outside of the PLA program schedule are also the participant's responsibility.

### **Program Calendar**

There are five sessions throughout an 18-month period. Session dates & activities are finalized at least 60 days before departure. Times and dates below are tentative and subject to change.

**Target dates** for the 2026-27 class are as follows:

<u>Session &amp; Date</u>	<u>Location</u>
Session 1 – Jan. 5-8, 2026	Orientation – Auburn, AL
Session 2 – March 2026	Southeast – Tifton, GA
Session 3 – Aug. 17-20, 2026	Texas Session – Lubbock, TX
Session 4 – Feb/March 2027	Washington, D.C./Virginia Region
Session 5 – July 2027	Graduation – Southern Peanut Growers Conference, Panama City Beach, FL

# Peanut Leadership Academy Application

## 2026-27 – Class XIV

(Must be postmarked or emailed no later than Oct. 15, 2025)

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

Preferred Name/Nickname: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State and Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address (if different): \_\_\_\_\_

Mobile Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Emergency Contact: \_\_\_\_\_

  

Birthdate: \_\_\_\_\_

Marital Status: \_\_\_\_\_ Spouse's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Children: \_\_\_\_\_ Children names: \_\_\_\_\_

U.S. Citizen: ☐ Yes ☐ No

*Answers to questions below may be listed on a separate sheet of paper.*

1. As a peanut farmer, do you derive your primary livelihood from farming? ☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ N/A
2. As a peanut farmer, do you currently produce peanuts? ☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ N/A
3. As a peanut farmer, are you part of a grower-owned shelling company? ☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ N/A
4. Have you previously applied for the program? ☐ Yes ☐ No
5. Education: *List all schools attended, including high school, college and/or short courses:*
  
6. Leadership Positions and Organizations: (List the leadership and policy-making positions you have held. Indicate past and current offices and memberships held in organizations, including high school, college, civic and government affiliations; the level (local, county, statewide, etc.) of these positions; and dates served.
  
7. List any honors or awards you have received:

8. Why would you like to participate in the Peanut Leadership Academy (200 words or less)?

The Peanut Leadership Academy is a program of the Southern Peanut Farmers Federation (SPFF); therefore, program sessions may coincide with SPFF functions.

Do you agree to attend and participate in all PLA program activities and sessions, regardless of state affiliation, except in times of illness or family emergency? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

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

**Applications must be postmarked or emailed no later than Oct. 15, 2025.**

*Please email or mail your completed application to your state contact below.*

**Alabama Peanut Producers Association**

Libbie Johnson, P.O. Box 8805, Dothan, AL 36304  
P: 334-792-6482 E: [libbiej@alpeanuts.com](mailto:libbiej@alpeanuts.com)

**Florida Peanut Producers Association**

Brittany Green, 2741 Penn Ave. Suite 1, Marianna, FL 32448  
P: 850-526-2590 E: [brittany@flpeanuts.com](mailto:brittany@flpeanuts.com)

**Georgia Peanut Commission**

Jessie Bland, P.O. Box 967, Tifton, GA 31793  
P: 229-386-3472 E: [jessie@gapeanuts.com](mailto:jessie@gapeanuts.com)

**Mississippi Peanut Growers Association**

Malcolm Broome, P.O. Box 284, Petal, MS 39465  
P: 601-606-3547 E: [malcolm@misspeanuts.com](mailto:malcolm@misspeanuts.com)

**Texas Peanut Producers Board**

Shelly Nutt, 1504 Park Hill Lane McKinney, TX 75069  
P: 806-687-6363 E: [shelly@texaspeanutboard.com](mailto:shelly@texaspeanutboard.com)

**Virginia Peanut Growers Association**

Caitlin Joyner, P.O. Box 59, Franklin, VA 23851  
P: 757-562-4103 E: [caitlin.joyner@aboutpeanuts.com](mailto:caitlin.joyner@aboutpeanuts.com)

**North Carolina Peanut Growers Association**

Ashley Collins, P.O. Box 8, Nashville, NC 27856  
P: 252-459-5060 E: [ashley.collins@aboutpeanuts.com](mailto:ashley.collins@aboutpeanuts.com)

**South Carolina Peanut Board**

Katherine Helms, 1200 Senate Street, Wade Hampton Bldg.,  
5<sup>th</sup> Floor, Columbia, SC 29201  
P: 803-734-5229 E: [khelms@scda.sc.gov](mailto:khelms@scda.sc.gov)