AUDL SUMMER PROGRAMS

ATLANTA URBAN DEBATE INSTITUTE

EMORY UNIVERSITY

Center for Civic and Community Engagement

Atlanta URBAN DEBATE

July 6-10, 2026
July 13-17, 2026

COACH LEADERSHIP FELLOWS INFORMATION & CONTRACT

Welcome

Thank you in advance for your desire, dedication, and determination. Your commitment to debate is absolutely crucial to the success of the Atlanta Urban Debate League and the Debate Community's continued growth. We are excited to have you help us provide the power of debate to countless young people in our community.

This document will be a guide for expectations as a Coach Leadership Fellow and act as an agreed blueprint of what your role will be as part of the Atlanta Urban Debate League's summer programming.

If you are interested in attending AUDL summer programming without the responsibilities that come with working as a Fellow, please still submit the interest form linked at the bottom of this document and let us know that you would like to be an observer.

Coach Leadership Fellow Role

What

- Program for coaches who want a week-long, in-depth experience in learning and teaching debate.
- Coach Leadership Fellows are lab leaders/co-instructors at the AUDL's summer institutes, working with other lab leaders such as AUDL staff, Emory students, and current or former debaters.
- No previous coaching experience required.
- $500 stipend awarded at the end of the week.

Why

- Opportunity for coaches to engage in experiential learning through both instruction and observation.
- Frequent collaboration with other lab leaders inside and outside of one's respective lab helps all instructors grow and foster the positive community and strong network of the Atlanta Urban Debate League.
    - Leverage the skills you have developed as an educator and coach while simultaneously learning from other instructors.

How

- Instructional teams are intentionally assigned with mixed experience levels so that everyone can learn from each other.
    - There is no hierarchy to instructional teams based on age or experience.
- The expectation for all lab leaders to be actively involved with teaching each day requires coordination with co-instructors in advance to develop lesson and activity plans that give everyone opportunities to help students in various capacities.
    - More experienced instructors should be ready to take a step back and help less experienced instructors prepare to lead some lessons and activities.
    - Less experienced instructors should utilize the AUDL's instructional resources and their co-lab leaders to prepare to try leading new lessons and activities.
- Sample curricula, lesson plans, and activities are provided to all instructors in advance.

Skills Development Checklist

The following is a list of skills that coaches should be learning and developing throughout the week (adapted from Boston UDL).

- Lead engaging lessons and practice activities using student-centered instructional techniques.
- Understand how to adapt the curriculum to meet the needs of diverse learners.
- Teach the structure of Novice, JV, and/or Varsity debate arguments, e.g., disadvantages, counterplans, and affirmative cases.
- Teach key Novice through Varsity debate skills, e.g., flowing, line-by-line debating, extending arguments, impact comparison, and kicking out of arguments.
- Understand how to use and where to find the resources, e.g., lesson plans and other instructors.

Instructional Staff Expectations

General Statement of Conduct

We expect all staff members to treat others with respect and to set a positive example for students in accordance with the 6 P's.

Drugs & Alcohol Policy

No staff member may consume, possess or be under the influence of illegal drugs or alcohol in lab rooms, on Emory University/school property, or during any interaction with students.

As per Emory University Policy, Emory is a smoke-free campus. We expect AUDI staff not to consume tobacco near, among, or with AUDI students.

Anti-Discrimination Policy

The AUDI is committed to a safe and harassment-free environment. Acts of discrimination or discriminatory harassment based upon an individual's race, ethnicity, gender, color, religion, creed, national origin, ancestry, age, marital status, disability, or sexual orientation are all serious violations of Emory University policy and federal law. Visit http://policies.emory.edu/1.3 for detailed explanations of Emory policies, as well as relevant state and federal laws.

Orientation & Onboarding

This year we will be having an in-person orientation on Emory's campus if possible, tentatively scheduled for Saturday, June 27, 2026. Orientation will include expectations, how to use support resources, and time to meet with assigned instructional teams.

Instructors are also encouraged to make use of AUDL curricular resources and communications (such as the AUDI Slack workspace) before and after the orientation session to prepare.

There will also be onboarding items to complete before camp. These include submitting paperwork, completing online training courses, and passing a background check (see Mandatory Reporter Policy).

Attendance & Availability

We assume if you accept this position that you will be attending orientation and the full workshop (every day of the camp and all hours every day). If that is not the case, please let us know and provide an explanation as to why you will not be present. Please note, based upon your response and availability we reserve the right to rescind an invitation to work in AUDL summer programming.

All instructors are expected to be with their labs for scheduled lab hours so that students are supervised during instructional periods. Staff should arrive before student drop-off begins and stay until the staff debrief after pick-up each day. If staff attendance becomes a problem, it can jeopardize the perception of responsibility and educational value that are fundamental to the success of the entire institute.

All instructors should take attendance with their students in lab at the beginning of every lab session. It is vital that we keep track of students and let them know we believe it is important for them to attend all lab sessions. We will provide you with more information on procedures at staff orientation.

Mandatory Reporter Policy

All AUDI staff are mandatory child abuse reporters. All instructors will be required to complete an online course on identifying and reporting misconduct with minors, along with an online course on boundaries for educators and a background check. Employment at a K-12 school does not exempt any instructors from having to complete trainings or background checks.

Housing, Transportation, and Food

We will cover parking for anyone who needs it and Uber vouchers for anyone unable to transport themselves to campus. The Atlanta Urban Debate League will not cover travel costs to or from Atlanta or housing for instructors living out of town.

We will also provide a food and travel stipend for all staff ($20 per diem/$100 for the week). All staff should bring their own nut-free lunch each day. A staff appreciation meal will be provided on one day of the week. Instructors should not leave their labs to purchase lunch on campus, even if there are other instructors present to supervise students.

The 6 P's

Punctual

- Arrive on time for staff huddles and morning assignments before students arrive each day.
- Try to be mindful of the time and schedule as you teach.
    - Get students to lunch by noon.
    - Return from lunch in a timely manner. Wrap up labs each day in time for students to be at the pick-up location when dismissal starts.

Positive

- Cultivate a welcoming educational space that prioritizes community over competition. Model the respectful behaviors we expect of students and each other.
- Celebrate the small successes during lab. Help students build confidence in themselves and enjoy camp as they learn about debate.
- Be engaged in morning community building activities during large group sessions and ice breakers in your lab groups.

Persistent

- Continue to be present and positive as situations inevitably arise. Reach out to the wider camp support network to avoid burnout and get help finding solutions.
- Be patient as students may need reminders of previously explained concepts throughout the week.
- Adjust teaching strategies as needed to ensure all students in your lab are understanding concepts. Meet students where they are.

Prepared

- Review the evidence packet corresponding to your lab's experience level before the start of camp.
- Review instructional resources such as sample curricula and lesson plans as needed to lead activities each day. Talk to your co-instructor(s) to clarify information and coordinate who will do what.
    - We have several resources. Please communicate with the admin team and we will be more than happy to point you in the right direction.

- Make sure to bring any necessary materials for the day when your lab leaves the large group session in the morning.

Proactive

- Communicate potential concerns or emergent situations to the admin team and/or your co-lab leaders as soon as possible.
- Communicate with other instructors for your lab group ahead of time to establish game plans before labs start for the day. Figure out who will lead what activities and how others can provide support before you are in front of students.

Professional

- Please be patient and mindful in your interpersonal communications with any parents, teachers, students, staff, and volunteers.
- Do not share any sensitive, confidential, or personally identifiable information about students with non-AUDL or CCE staff members or give your personal contact information to students.
- We welcome all staff to dress comfortably in any attire appropriate for a K-12 educational space.

Application/Interest Form

As of 2026, we have a new process for integrating coaches into our summer programming.

If you would like to participate in the Coach Leadership Fellows or Coach Observer program this summer, please complete the interest form linked below. An AUDL staff member will follow up by email to schedule a time to meet on Zoom for a brief conversation. We will use this to understand what you are looking to get out of the program, ways we can best support you, and any other information that may be pertinent as we assign instructional teams.

Instead of signing up for a specific program, the AUDL staff will use information from Zoom conversations to make decisions and extend an invitation to a specific program for specific week(s). If you know you would definitely like to participate as a Coach Observer and NOT as a Coach Leadership Fellow, please let us know when you talk to a staff member after submitting the interest form.

The deadline to apply is April 24, 2026. We will do our best to finish Zoom conversations and extend invitations by May 8, 2026.

If you have any questions or concerns, please email atlantadebate@gmail.com.

Click here for the coach programming interest form.