Welcome to Model USDA

Model United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) invites you and your USDA NextGen peers to step into the shoes of food policy decision-makers during a multi-day simulation. During this immersive experience, we hope to equip you with insights into USDA's work and training on how to do it. Through role-playing on timely issues before USDA, you'll act out real-life job functions, navigate crises, and negotiate and solve problems in a simulated environment.

Good luck and have fun!
Kathleen Merrigan, PhD
Executive Director, Swette Center for Sustainable Food Systems

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About Model USDA

Model USDA is a multi-day experiential learning simulation that immerses students in food, agriculture, nutrition, forestry, and related policy issues under the jurisdiction of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and its federal partners.

Rather than learning about policy through lectures or debates, participants are placed directly inside a simulated policy environment. Each student is assigned:

- **One scenario**, representing a high-priority policy issue
- **One stakeholder role** within that scenario, representing a real organization, office, or institution involved in that issue

Participants remain in the same scenario and role throughout the simulation.

Why Model USDA Matters

Federal policymaking is rarely linear or unanimous. Policy outcomes emerge through:

- Negotiation and compromise
- Differing institutional authorities and constraints
- Competing political, economic, and social priorities
- Interpretation of scientific and stakeholder evidence

Model USDA is designed to help participants understand:

- How institutional roles influence policy outcomes
- The difference between authority and influence
- How evidence, values, and feasibility intersect
- Why respectful disagreement and collaboration matter

Model USDA Is Not…

- A lecture or panel series
- A debate competition
- A test of personal opinions
- A zero-sum or “winner-takes-all” exercise

Pre-Event Preparation Schedule

Date	Time	Location	Activity	Details
Thursday, Jan 22	3:30 - 4:30p AZT	**Watch the Recording Here**	**Model USDA Orientation**	• Overview of what to expect for Model USDA (objectives, schedule, scenarios, pre-work) • Ask clarifying questions
Now - Sunday, Jan 25	By 11:59pm	**Open Forum Speech Submission Form**	***Task*: Open Forum Speech**	• Submit your Open Forum Speech
Tuesday, Jan 27	3:30 - 4:30p AZT	**Watch the Recording Here** **Includes reminders, excludes speech practices*	**Model USDA Open Forum Speech Practice** (Virtual)	• Practice your Open Forum Speech and receive live feedback
Friday, Jan 30 (Day 1)	3:30 - 4:30p AZT	**WCPH 107** *(Auditorium)*	**Model USDA Open Forum Speech Practice** (In-Person)	• Practice your Open Forum speech and receive live feedback

Note: These events are all optional, but *highly encouraged* to help you prepare for the Model USDA event and your assigned scenario simulation.

Model USDA Event Schedule

DAY 1 [Friday, Jan 30]

Time	Location	Activity	Details	Relevant Resources
2:00 - 4:45pm	Atrium	**Registration & Networking**	Check in to the conference to receive your nametag and more.	Hotels-to-WCPH Maps WCPH Map
3:30 - 4:30pm	Auditorium	***Open Forum Speech Practice***	Live practice and feedback **Make sure you check in first!*	WCPH Map Open Forum Speech Instructions
5:00 - 6:30pm	Auditorium	**Opening Ceremony**	Welcome Logistics Overview Former USDA Secretaries Panel Closing Reminders	
6:30 - 8:00pm	Atrium	**Reception**	Networking Activity Dinner	

DAY 2 [Saturday, Jan 31]

Time	Location	Activity	Details	Relevant Resources
8:00 - 8:45am	Atrium	**Breakfast**		
9:00am -12:00pm	*Scenario Rooms:* Scenario A – **190** Scenario B – **192** Scenario C – **360** Scenario D – **409** Scenario E – **460** Scenario F – **560**	**AM Scenario Sessions**	Scenario Session Opening Open Forum Speeches Guest speaker remarks *Break* Networking & Negotiations Morning Closing & Reminders	**WCPH Map** **Event brief** **Scenario brief** **Open forum speech** **Final Deliverable Templates** – Any materials you may need for active participation (e.g., **charged** laptop, charger, notebook, materials you prepared for the simulation, etc.)
12:00 - 1:30pm	Atrium	**Lunch**	Lunch	
1:30 - 4:30pm	*Scenario Rooms* [Return to the same room]	**PM Scenario Sessions**	Networking, Negotiations, and/or Recommendation Writing (Round 1) Recommendation Presentation (Draft 1) Afternoon Closing & Reminders	[Same as the AM Scenario Sessions]

4:30 - 5:00pm	Auditorium	**Wrap-Up Plenary**	Journalists Reports Reflections & Logistics	
5:00 - 6:45pm	Atrium	**Dinner**	Dinner Networking Activity or Speaker	

DAY 3 [Sunday, Feb 1]

Time	Location	Activity	Details	Relevant Resources
8:00 - 8:45am	Atrium	**Breakfast**		
9:00 - 11:30am	*Scenario Rooms* [Return to the same room]	**Final Scenario Session**	Scenario Session Opening Negotiations and/or Recommendation Writing (Round 2) Recommendation Presentation (Draft 2) Negotiations &/or Recommendation Writing (Final Round) Debrief & *Standout Student Award* Voting	[Same as the Day 2 AM Scenario Sessions]

			Scenario Session Official Close	
11:30am - 12:30pm	Atrium	**Lunch**		
12:30 - 1:30pm	Auditorium	**Closing Ceremony**	Speaker Journalists Reports Standout Student Awards	

Notes:

- All indicated times are in Arizona Time (AZT).
- All activities will take place at the Walton Center for Planetary Health (WCPH).
- You are expected to have your Model USDA nametag with you and visible *at all times*. It is **required** to claim meals.
- Check this document and/or the **Model USDA Website** regularly for updates on “TBD” or “Coming Soon” details.
- For additional logistics and resources, refer to the **Resource Library**.

PARTICIPANT EXPECTATIONS

The Participant Experience

What You Will Do

During the simulation, participants will:

- Role play, representing an assigned stakeholder organization
- Deliver a brief **Open Forum Speech**
- Engage in meetings, negotiations, and coalition-building
- Advocate for your role's priorities using strategic communication
- Collaborate with peers under real-world time pressure
- Contribute to a scenario-specific outcome or deliverable

This simulation requires you to actively participate. Be ready for frequent discussion and dynamic interaction with other attendees.

How You Will Engage

Participants are expected to remain in their assigned roles throughout the simulation, representing their organization's mission, interests, and constraints, not personal views or real-world individuals. Effective participation combines role immersion, advocacy, collaboration, and professional conduct.

You will be expected to:

- Think strategically about what success looks like for your role
- Use a mix of advocacy tools and tactics
- Build coalitions and negotiate across differences
- Listen actively, ask clarifying questions, and incorporate others' perspectives
- Communicate respectfully, even when tensions or disagreements arise

Moderators will guide sessions, but participants are responsible for sustaining meaningful discussion and momentum.

What to Expect Overall

- Learn through hands-on engagement, speaking and listening often
- Adapt your strategy as conditions change
- Balance persuasion with collaboration

Model USDA works best when participants fully commit to the experience. Your preparation, professionalism, and engagement shape both your learning and the quality of the simulation for everyone.

PARTICIPANT EXPECTATIONS

Role Play Guidelines

Because Model USDA is a simulation of institutional decision-making, you will be expected to represent the mission, interests, and constraints of your assigned organization, not your personal views nor those of a specific real-world individual.

Your role is to act from an institutional perspective, including how an organization would realistically assess options, communicate priorities, and pursue outcomes within a political and policy environment.

Core Principles of Role Play

Effective role-play means:

- Representing your organization's mission, values, and priorities
- Avoiding portrayal of real people or current incumbents
- Maintaining a clear separation between personal opinion and stakeholder position
- Acting within the authority and limitations of your role
- Using evidence and strategic communication
- Ask yourself throughout the simulation: *What would this organization reasonably do in this moment – and why?*

Role Play Guidelines

- Represent the stakeholder organization's mission and interests, not your own
- Avoid portraying real individuals; focus on institutional perspective
- Maintain distinction between personal opinion and stakeholder stance

Thinking Strategically

Strong participants think beyond individual moments and consider the broader policy landscape. This includes:

- Understanding organizational **incentives, pressures, and constraints**
- Anticipating tradeoffs and competing priorities
- Defining what **success** looks like for your role
- Adapting strategy as new information or dynamics emerge

ROLE PLAY GUIDELINES

Advocacy Tools & Tactics

Policy change is rarely driven by a single action. In Model USDA, stakeholders use a mix of formal, informal, public, and behind-the-scenes strategies to influence decision-makers and shape outcomes. Participants are encouraged to actively use one or more advocacy tools during the simulation.

You should initiate or join small group meetings to coordinate strategies with other stakeholders. Your Stakeholder Role materials provide guidance on which tools are most realistic or effective for your role. Reviewing how similar policy issues have been addressed in the past may also help inform your approach.

Ways to Advance Your Perspective

Some advocacy tools participants may want to employ throughout the simulation:

Open Forum Speech
All participants will deliver remarks during the Open Forum to introduce their priorities and concerns.

Oral Testimony
Deliver structured testimony to decision-makers, drawing on evidence, experience, and clear recommendations.

Coalition-Building
Form alliances with aligned – or even unlikely – partners to amplify influence and demonstrate broader support.

Drafting Language & Recommendations
Submit proposed language, edits, or implementation ideas for inclusion in the group's final deliverable.

Sign-On Efforts
Prepare a form letter and encourage other stakeholders to sign or submit it collectively to decision-makers.

Storytelling & Evidence-Sharing
Use real-world observations, professional experience, and data to humanize and strengthen your case.

Direct Engagement & Lobbying
Request one-on-one meetings with decision-makers or senior staff, or communicate priorities through targeted letters.

Media Engagement
Convey your position through interviews, press-style statements, or opinion pieces.

Note: Journalists will be present during the simulation and may request interviews at random. You may also proactively reach out to request an interview and make your case.

Note: Not all stakeholder roles are able to talk with Journalists due to organizational regulations – make sure you know if your assigned role falls into this category.

Public Pressure Tactics
In some cases, stakeholders may stage protests or coordinated actions to generate attention and urgency.

Using Advocacy Strategically

There is no single “right” approach. Effective advocacy often involves:

- Combining multiple tools
- Adjusting tactics as dynamics change
- Coordinating with others to maximize impact
- Balancing pressure with professionalism

Your goal is not simply to speak, but to persuade – credibly and strategically – within the bounds of your role.

PARTICIPANT EXPECTATIONS

Engagement & Conduct Expectations

Model USDA relies on shared norms to support effective collaboration, accurate role-play, clear communication, and professional decorum within each scenario group. All participants are expected to contribute to an inclusive, respectful, and conducive environment for thoughtful policy engagement.

While the simulation may involve high tensions, competing priorities, and difficult decisions, all interactions must reflect respect for peers, institutions, and the learning environment.

Professional Conduct

You are expected to:

- Speak and act in alignment with your assigned role
- Participate fully and respectfully in all sessions
- Use appropriate, constructive language
- Contribute equitably to discussions without dominating airtime

Engagement Expectations

Active engagement is essential to Model USDA. This includes:

- Practicing active listening and collaborative problem-solving
- Preparing in advance for discussions and meetings
- Asking clarifying questions rather than making assumptions
- Incorporating others' perspectives into your strategic thinking

Participants should remain attentive and present, recognizing how both words and silence affect group dynamics.

Respect & Inclusion

Model USDA places a high priority on inclusivity and respectful debate. Participants are expected to:

- Respect differing viewpoints, even when disagreement is strong
- Be mindful of power dynamics within simulated roles
- Create space for all voices to be heard
- Engage with curiosity rather than defensiveness

Discussion Norms

To support productive dialogue:

- Do not interrupt or talk over others
- Avoid repeating points already made; build on prior remarks
- Identify and highlight areas of common ground
- Ask questions to clarify meaning or intent
- Avoid dismissive behavior, including eye-rolling, sighing, or disengagement

Disagreement is expected; disrespect is not tolerated.

Operational Expectations

Participants are responsible for:

- Have your Model USDA
- Arriving on time to all sessions
- Remaining in your assigned room
- Following moderator and facilitator instructions
- Completing required tasks and submissions on schedule

Moderators will guide sessions, but participants are expected to take the initiative to sustain meaningful discussion.

Shared Responsibility

Every participant plays a role in shaping the quality of the Model USDA experience. Respectful engagement, thoughtful participation, and professional conduct ensure a productive and meaningful simulation for all.

PARTICIPANT EXPECTATIONS

Standout Student Voting & Awards

Within each scenario group, up to three students will be selected by their peers as Standout Students. Winners will be announced during the Closing Ceremony on the final day of the simulation and will be publicly recognized.

What Standout Students Demonstrate

Standout Students consistently excel in the following areas:

Preparation
Demonstrated strong readiness through a high-quality Open Forum speech, familiarity with the scenario topic, and clear understanding of their assigned stakeholder role.

Participation
Engaged fully in the simulation by embracing their role, speaking persuasively, acting strategically, and listening actively.

Collaboration
Modeled the “Rules of the Road” by contributing to respectful, productive, and strategic group engagement.

The Voting Process

- **Who votes:** Participants vote for peers within their own scenario group
- **How many votes:** Up to three (3) peers may be selected
- **When:** Voting will occur on Day 3 of Model USDA, prior to concluding the simulation
- **How:** Votes will be cast using a unique voting form (link provided during the simulation)
- **Facilitation:** Scenario moderators will direct participants when to complete voting

This process gives participants the opportunity to recognize peers who elevated the quality and professionalism of the simulation.

PREPARATION & PRE-WORK

Preparation Checklist

All participants need to complete the following action items **prior** to arriving for the in-person *Model USDA* event:

- ☐ **Find your assigned scenario and role assignment in the Model USDA Scenario and Role Assignments**
- ☐ **Understand your assigned scenario**
  - ☐ Find your assigned **Scenario Brief** and read it fully
  - ☐ Identify your scenario's collective Objective and how it can be attained
  - ☐ Identify your scenario's Final Deliverable and understand how it will be developed
  - ☐ Review resources relevant to the scenario's core issue, policy, advocacy skills, and processes (*via resources provided in the brief and independent research*)
- ☐ **Understand Your Role**
  - ☐ Review your assigned role's full description (*located in the scenario brief*)
  - ☐ Identify the "type" of stakeholder this role is and understand how you'll be engaging in the simulation/influencing the scenario objective and final deliverable (*included in the "Role Descriptions: Overview" Table*)
  - ☐ Familiarize yourself with the priorities of the stakeholder and the organization/agency/etc. they represent (*via resources provided in the brief and independent research*)
  - ☐ Prepare as necessary to portray this role during the live simulation using the **Role Play Guidelines**, **Advocacy Tools & Tactics**, and **Engagement & Conduct Expectations**
- ☐ Prepare your **Open Forum Speech** and **submit for feedback** by **Sunday, Jan 25**
- ☐ ***Optional*:** Attend a **Model USDA Pre-Event Preparation Session**:
  - ☐ **Model USDA Orientation:** Thursday, Jan 22, 3:30-4:30p AZT
  - ☐ **Open Forum Speech Practice** (virtual, *Zoom*)**:** Tuesday, Jan 27, 3:30-4:30p AZT

- ☐ **Open Forum Speech Practice** (in-person, WCPH 107 Auditorium)**:** Friday, Jan 30, 3:30-4:30p AZT

☐ **Be aware of in-person event logistics**

- ☐ Review the **event schedule** and know your scenario's specific **daily action items** (*located in the scenario brief*)
- ☐ Familiarize yourself with the provided **WCPH maps** to know where to find important rooms and resources
- ☐ Bring items and materials that will help you effectively engage in the event and simulation (e.g.: charged laptop, notes, charged electronic powerbank, power cords, etc.)

PREPARATION & PRE-WORK

Task: Open Forum Speech

You will need to create your **Open Forum Speech** and submit it for feedback by **Sunday, January 25th**.

This speech will introduce your assigned stakeholder role to your scenario group, communicate your key priorities, and set the tone for how others understand your perspective during the simulation.

They will be delivered at the beginning of the scenario simulation during the **Day 2: Scenario Opening, Open Forum session.**

Important Context

- This is a required pre-event task for **all participants**
- This speech should reflect your position and priorities of your assigned role and the organization or agency they represent – not your personal opinion
- Present this speech with authority as a subject matter or process expert within your scenario role (vs advocacy, *unless your role explicitly advocates*)
- Your speech should be one (1) minute maximum – *this timeframe will be strictly enforced*

Drafting Your Open Forum Speech

**Refer to the Open Forum Speech Template – and example – to get started!*

Step 1: Know Your Stakeholder's Perspective

- Review your assigned role's description
- Review the mission and priorities of the organization you'll represent
- Understand what you uniquely bring to the table
- Define what "success" will look like to your stakeholder in this simulation

Step 2: Organize Your Speech

1. **Introduction** – Your name and the organization you represent
2. **Priority** – What your stakeholder cares about most
3. **Rationale** – Why this issue or approach matters
4. **Close** – What you want others to consider

Step 3: Practice & Time Your Speech

- Aim for a **120–135 word** written narrative (= 1-minute speech at normal talking speed)
- Aim for **50–55 seconds** oral delivery to stay under the 1-minute limit
- *If overtime*: Focus on condensing your narrative for directness and clarity, rather than attempting to talk faster

- *If time*: Utilize a statistic, research, or position statement issued by a real-world incumbent or associated organization/agency

Step 4: Submit for Feedback & Finalize

- Submit your draft by **Sunday, January 25th** for feedback: **SUBMIT HERE**
- Revise your speech based on feedback
- Prepare a final version ready to deliver during the Model USDA event

***Open Forum Development Support*:**

- Utilize the **Open Forum Speech Template** to develop your speech
- Attend **Model USDA Open Forum Speech Practices** to receive live feedback on speech content and clarity, delivery, and timing
- For examples of effective public testimony, consider reviewing short segments from a **2023 House Agriculture Committee listening session in Maine**. Focus on how speakers introduce themselves, their organizations, and their priorities.

Resource Library

CONTENT NAVIGATOR

Model USDA Resources	**Model USDA Resource List**
	Scenario Brief Overviews
	Open Forum Resources
	EventMobi
	On-site Wi-Fi
Event Logistics	**Maps**
	FAQs

RESOURCE LIBRARY

Model USDA Resources

Model USDA Website

–

Model USDA Scenario & Role Assignment Sheet

–

Event Brief (this document)

- **Preparation Checklist**
- **Event Model USDA Schedule**
- **Role Play Guidelines**
- **Advocacy Tools & Tactics**
- **Standout Student Instructions**
- **Open Forum Instructions and Draft Submission Form**

–

Scenario Briefs

- **Scenario Overview, Objective, and Final Deliverable**
- **Final Deliverable Template**
- **Role Descriptions**

–

EventMobi (Communications Platform)

- **EventMobi Registration Instructions**

–

Preparation Meeting Recordings

2026 Model USDA Orientation

–

On-site Wi-Fi

Wireless Connection Instructions

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RESOURCE LIBRARY

Scenario Briefs

Scenario A

Healthy and Sustainable Dietary Guidelines

This scenario challenges participants to determine if, and how, environmental sustainability and ultra-processed foods (UPFs) should be incorporated into the Dietary Guidelines for Americans (DGAs). This has long been a point of debate, as any changes to the DGAs affect school meals, military meals, feeding assistance programs, and more. A change of this scope would have far-reaching implications for how our nation grows food, the types of food prioritized, and even the nation's eating habits.

Location: **WCPH 190**

Scenario A: Final Deliverable template

Scenario A: Standout Student voting form [Available on Model USDA: Day 3]

Scenario B

Expanding Nutrition Education to Schools Nationwide

This scenario imagines that Congress passed a law that provides schools with funding to integrate hands-on food and nutrition programs into the classroom (e.g., school gardens). As a result, participants are tasked with participating in a rulemaking process to implement newly passed legislation. A key issue will be navigating the desires of different food sectors (dairy, produce, beef, organic) with industry groups, public health experts, and child nutrition outreach services.

Location: **WCPH 192**

Scenario B: Final Deliverable template

Scenario B: Standout Student voting form [Available on Day 3]

Scenario C

Growing Urban Agriculture

This scenario invites participants to secure the Secretary of Agriculture's approval on a strategy to engage new farmers in urban settings. They'll be charged with developing program and policy priorities to build a more diverse urban agriculture landscape. However, urban farming has very different goals and challenges from "traditional" farming. Can you work to find common ground among established agricultural

organizations, young and upcoming urban farmers, housing advocates, real estate developers, and city planners?

***Location*: WCPH 360**

Scenario C: Final Deliverable template

Scenario C: Standout Student voting form [Available on Day 3]

Scenario D

Investing in Rural America

This scenario envisions the Commodity Credit Corporation allocating $1 billion for USDA to invest in rural communities over three years. Representing diverse public and private stakeholders, participants must develop a spending strategy while navigating conflicting views of "rural America," and the various needs asserted by struggling family farms, big agriculture industries, town and city officials, healthcare providers and more. The needs of rural America are great, as is its untapped potential. How will your strategy effectively meet rural needs?

***Location*: WCPH 409**

Scenario D: Final Deliverable template

Scenario D: Standout Student voting form [Available on Model USDA: Day 3]

Scenario E

FSIS Food Label Guidance for Voluntary Claims

The USDA Food Safety Inspection Service (FSIS) oversees meat and poultry labeling and issued updated guidance on September 10, 2024, for substantiating animal-raising and environmental claims. This guidance, published in the Federal Register, received 16,617 public comments. As FSIS considers whether to finalize or revise the published guidance, the Secretary of Agriculture has asked the FSIS Administrator to review key public comments, engage critical stakeholders, and develop a decision-making process that balances stakeholder views and meets constituent needs.

***Location*: WCPH 460**

Scenario E: Final Deliverable template

Scenario E: Standout Student voting form [Available on Model USDA: Day 3]

Scenario F

Fighting Fire with Fire: Prescribed Burning in Our Forests

The USDA Forest Service faces increasing challenges in fighting wildfires and uses prescribed burning to reduce fire risk. Although a national prescribed burn strategy

exists, a new animal welfare group, Save Our Friends, has blocked entrances to national forests to protest the practice, drawing emotional media attention, particularly in California. Concerned that these confrontations could escalate into violence and recognizing the public's limited understanding of wildland fire management, the Secretary of Agriculture has asked the Forest Service Chief to consult with stakeholders and propose a process and public campaign to build public acceptance of prescribed burns.

Location: **WCPH 560**

Scenario F: Final Deliverable template

Scenario F: Standout Student voting form [Available on Model USDA: Day 3]

Open Forum Resources

Template: One-Minute Open Forum Speech

Use this template to draft a one-minute Open Forum Speech to introduce yourself in your stakeholder role and present your scenario-specific priorities to the stakeholder group.

Introduction (~10 seconds)

- Opening salutation
- Introduce yourself (using your name!) as your assigned role representing the associated organization/agency

Purpose Statement (~15 seconds)

- Clearly state the core priority/issue area your organization/role is:
    - Responsible for in the process of reaching your scenario's objective, and/or
    - Concerned about being addressed in the final objective

Rationale (~20 seconds)

- State why your core priority/issue area is central to your organization/agency's mission, authority, and/or credibility
- State how this core priority/issue area being addressed in the final objective will impact your key standards, constraints, and/or responsibilities that shape how your organization/agency operates

Close (~10 seconds)

- State why your core priority/issue area should matter to other stakeholders in the room
- Share what others should consider when using your input and/or when engaging with your role
- Closing salutation

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Open Forum Speech Example

Good morning. My name is Nakia Salahi, and I serve as Chair of the Dietary Guidelines Advisory Committee.

The Committee's foremost responsibility is to provide independent, rigorous, and transparent scientific review to inform the Dietary Guidelines for Americans. Our credibility depends on clearly communicating what the evidence supports, where it is limited, and how it should be interpreted.

As interest grows in incorporating sustainability and food processing considerations, it is important to acknowledge that expanding the scope of evidence review has significant implications for scientific methodology, committee composition, workload, and timelines. Some questions may be addressed using existing approaches, while others may require new frameworks or additional research.

As these issues are considered, I urge a clear distinction between scientific advisory findings and the policy decisions that follow, and careful attention to preserving the independence and integrity of the advisory process.

RESOURCE LIBRARY

EventMobi

Each participant in Model USDA 2026 is required to download the EventMobi app. This app allows you to instantly access crucial information such as the daily agenda, room numbers, speaker bios, and more. Staff will also be using this app to send announcements to all participants throughout the event.



For instructions to set-up your EventMobi account, look in your inbox for an email that matches this description:

> ***From address*:** modelusda <modelusda@event-emails.com>
> ***Subject Line*:** "Model USDA: Create Profile on EventMobi & Download the App!"

Troubleshooting:

If you can't find the email, you can simply download the EventMobi app, then enter the code "modelusda" using the same email address you used to register for Model USDA.

If you are still having difficulties with creating your account and accessing Model USDA information, we will have staff available to assist you on Friday (the first day of the event).

Linked here is a basic user guide for EventMobi.

RESOURCE LIBRARY

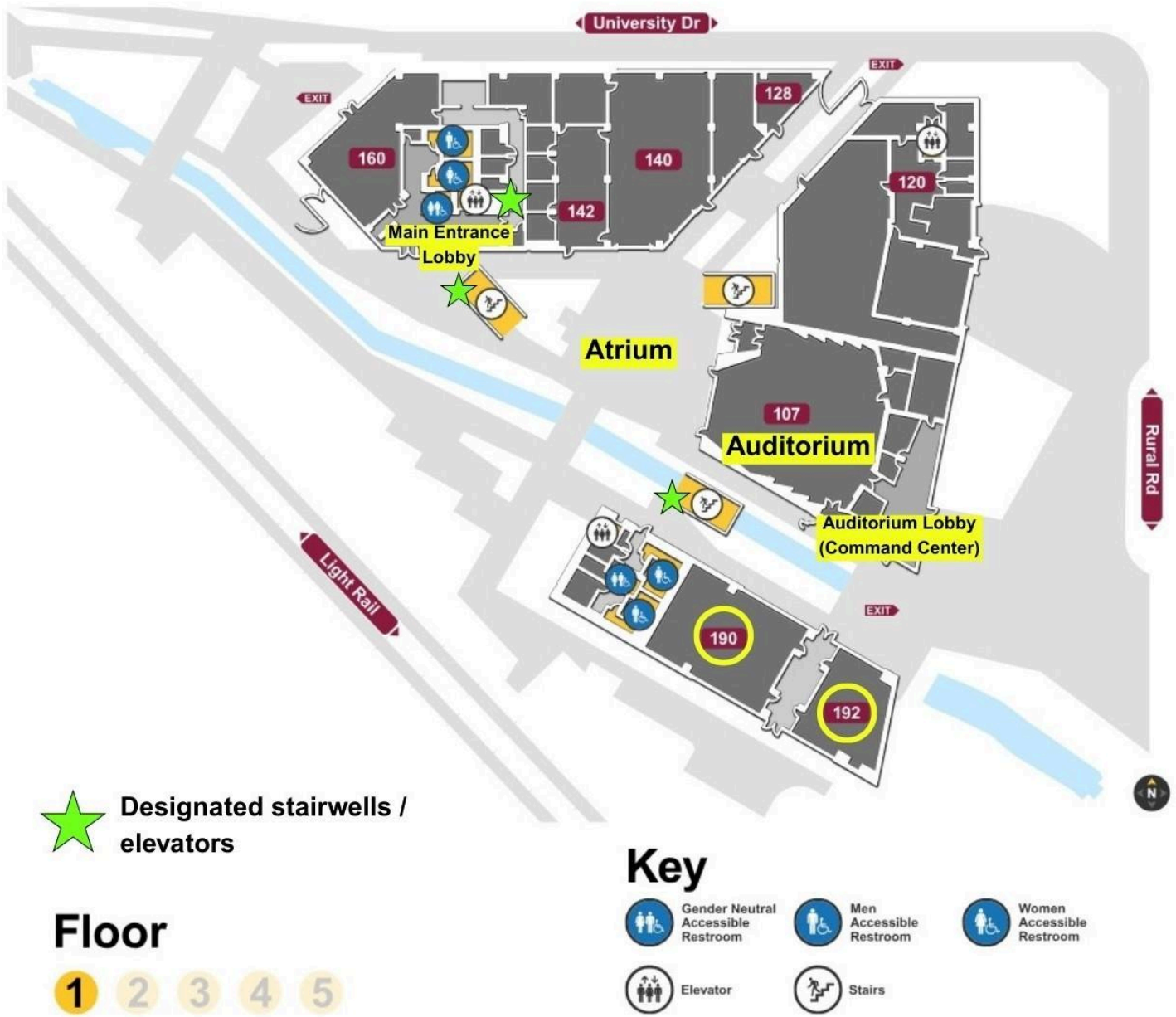
Wi-Fi

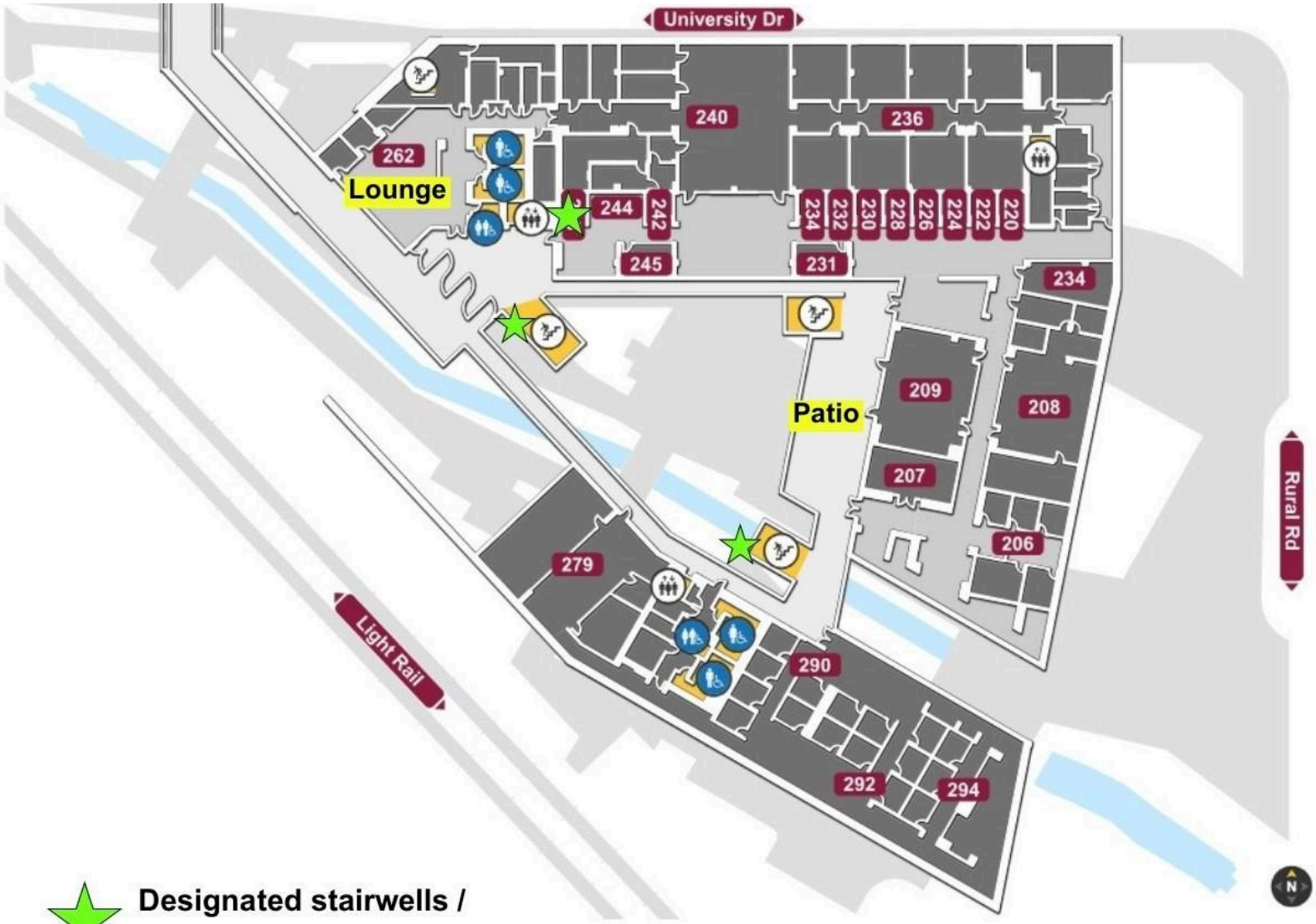
Visitors to ASU can freely use the **asu guest** wireless network.

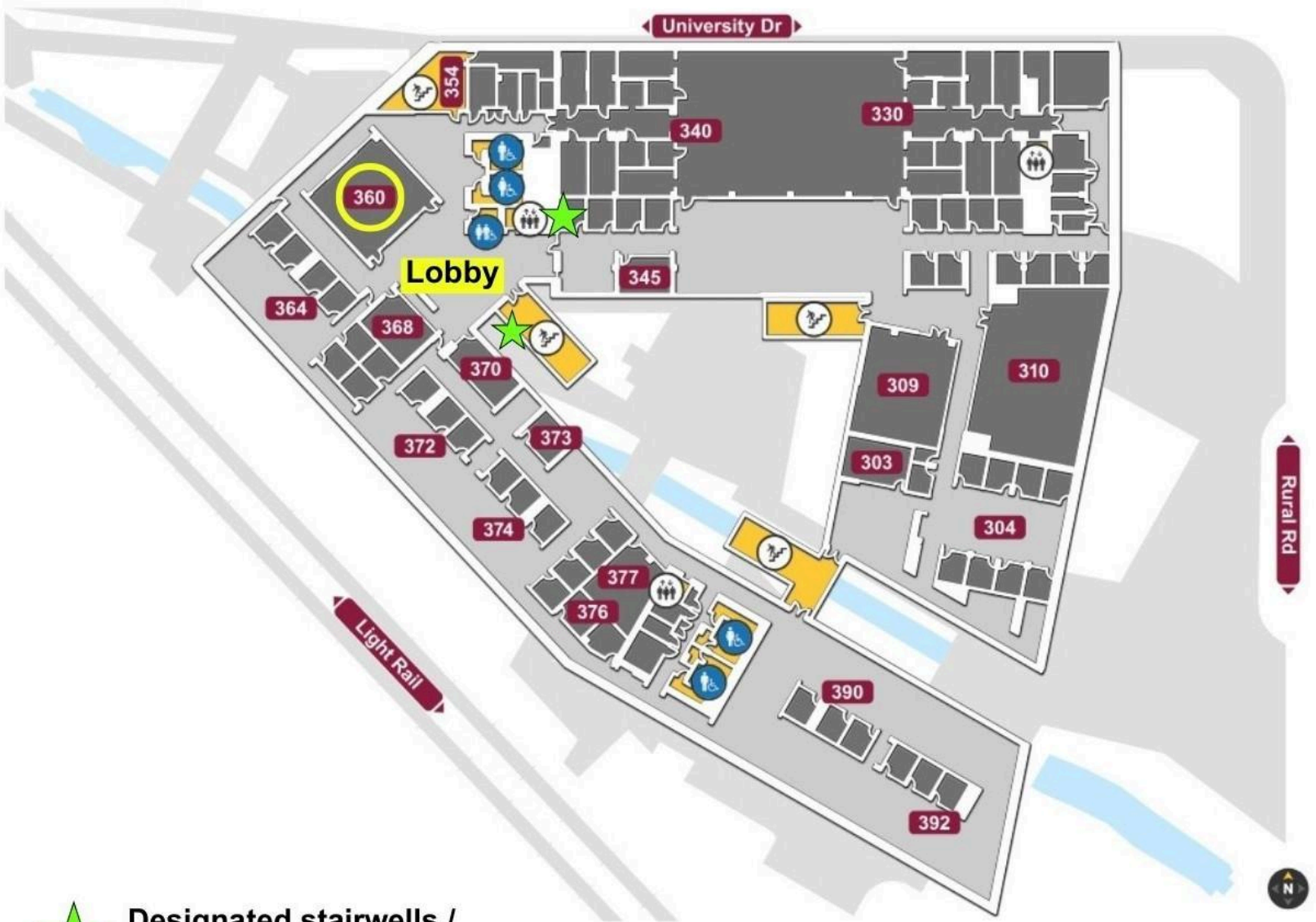
If you are an ASU student or staff, please use the encrypted ASU Wireless connection named **asu** instead. You can log-in with your ASURITE User ID and password.

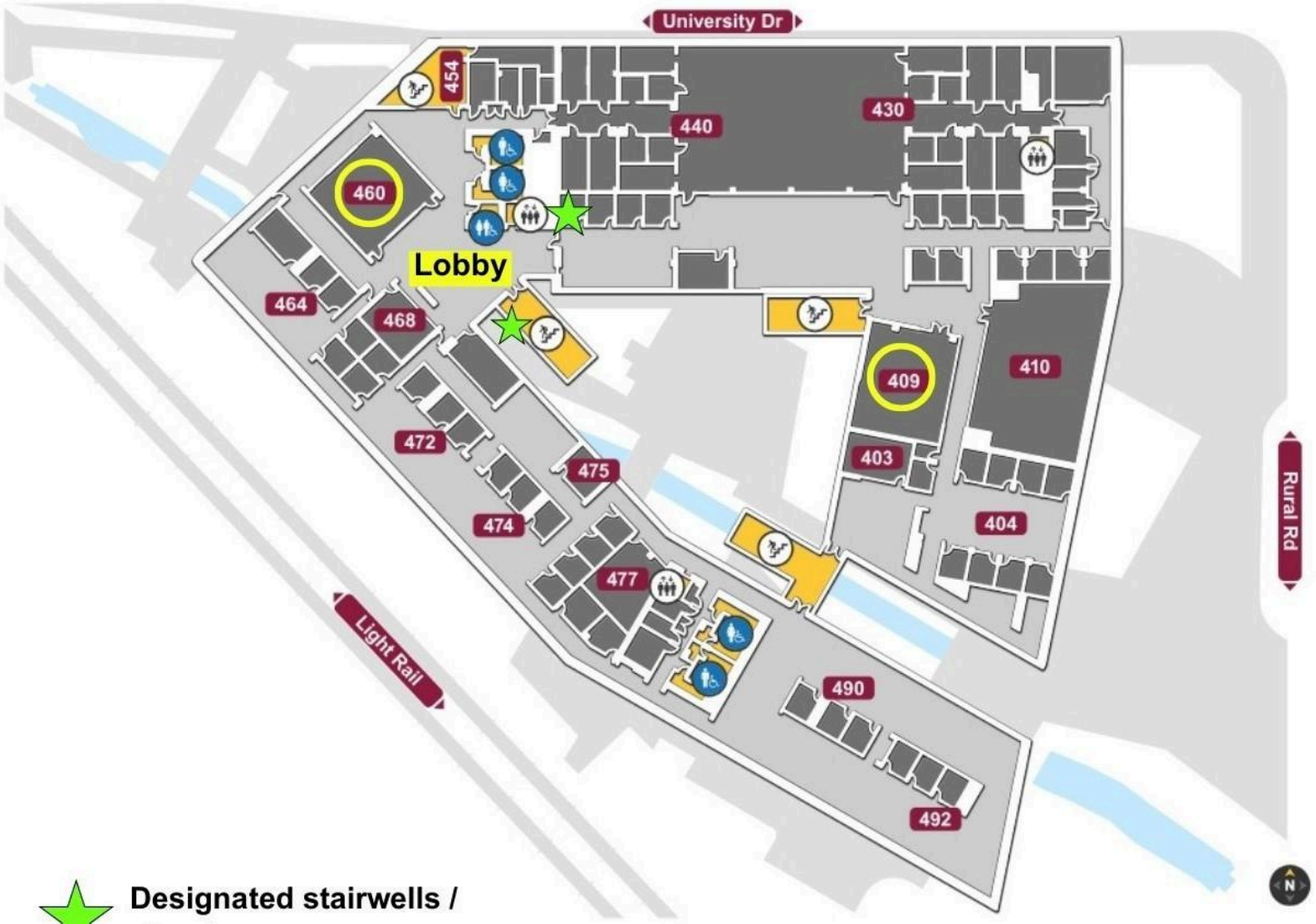
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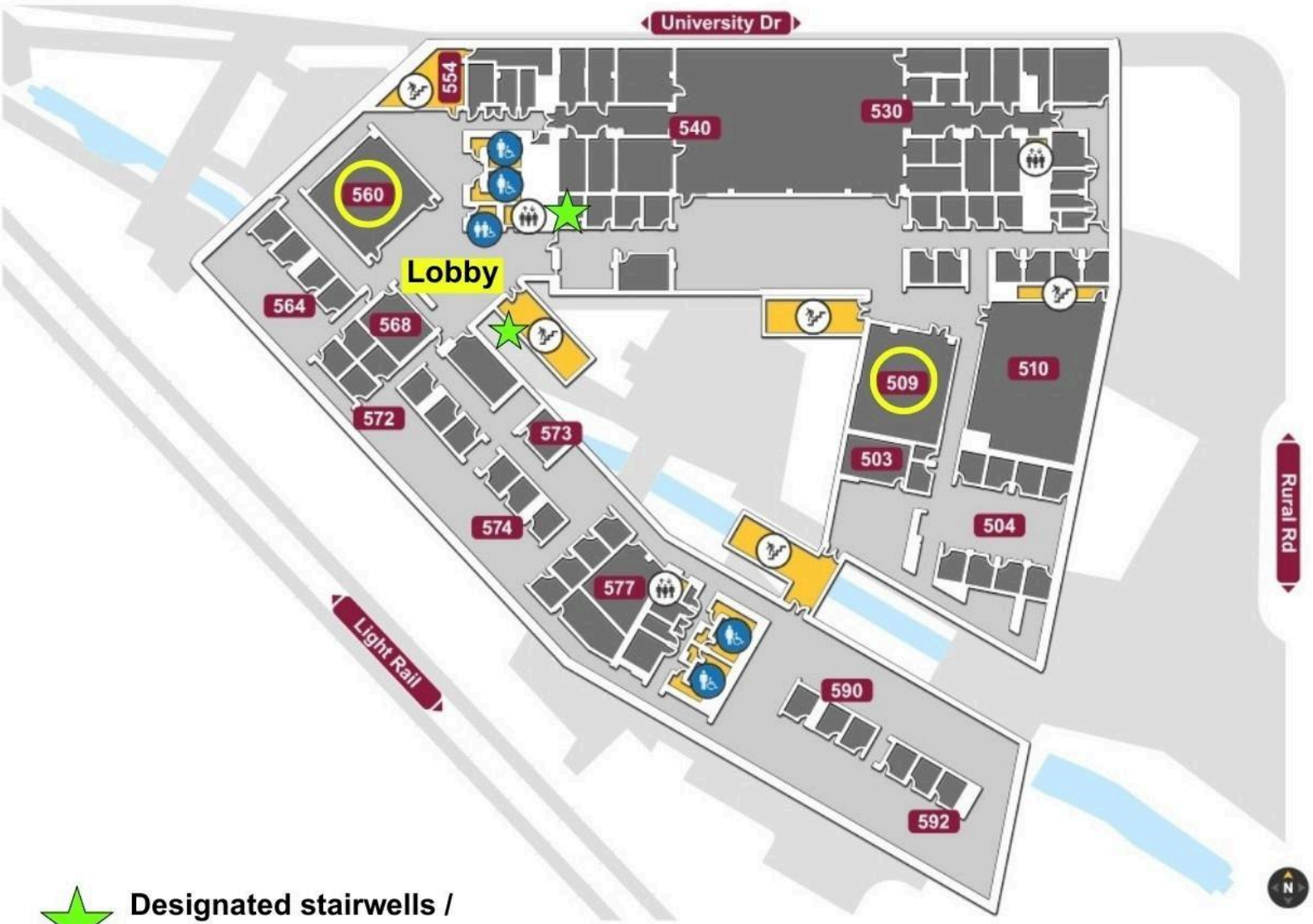
WCPH Maps




University Dr
Rural Rd
Light Rail
Lounge
Patio
262
240
236
244
242
234
232
230
228
226
224
222
220
245
231
234
209
208
207
206
279
290
292
294
N
Designated stairwells / elevators
Key
Gender Neutral Accessible Restroom
Men Accessible Restroom
Women Accessible Restroom
Elevator
Stairs
Floor
1
2
3
4
5


University Dr
354
340
330
360
Lobby
345
364
368
370
372
373
374
377
376
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392
Rural Rd
Light Rail
N
Designated stairwells / elevators
Floor
1 2 3 4 5
Key
Gender Neutral Accessible Restroom
Men Accessible Restroom
Women Accessible Restroom
Elevator
Stairs


University Dr
454
440
430
460
Lobby
464
468
472
475
474
477
409
410
403
404
490
492
Light Rail
Rural Rd
N
Designated stairwells / elevators
Key
Gender Neutral Accessible Restroom
Men Accessible Restroom
Women Accessible Restroom
Elevator
Stairs
Floor
1 2 3 4 5



Designated stairwells / elevators

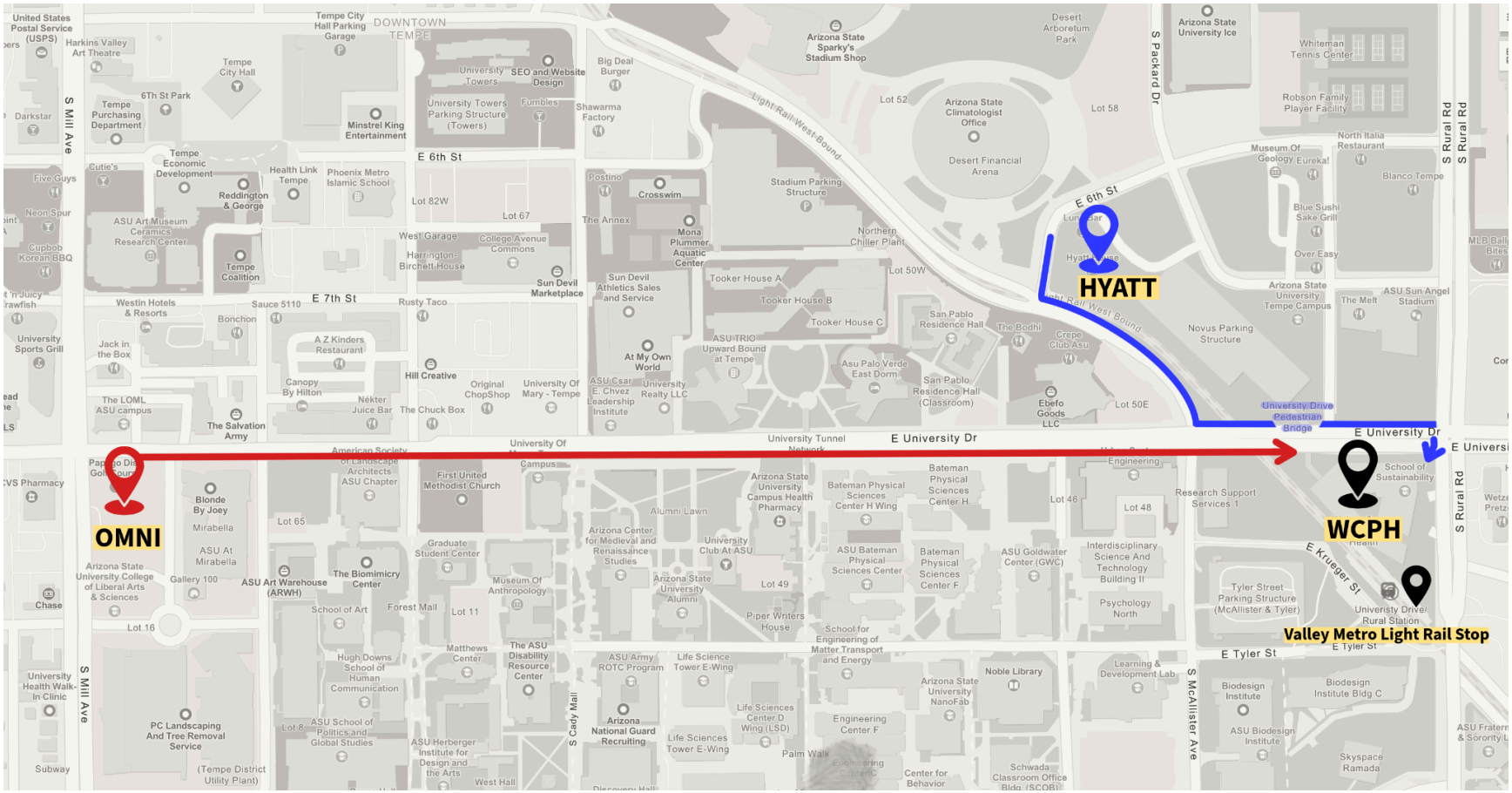
Key

- Gender Neutral Accessible Restroom
- Men Accessible Restroom
- Women Accessible Restroom
- Elevator
- Stairs

Floor

1 2 3 4 **5**

Hotels-to-WCPH Maps




E 6th St
Luna Bar
HYATT
Garage Entrance
Gabes Mobile Detailing
Blue Sushi Sake Grill
Flower Child
Over Easy
S Novus Pl
S Packard Dr
Center for the Study of Economic Libert
Arizona State University Tempe Campus
The Melt
ASU Sun Angel Stadium
MLB Ballpark Bites
Macayo's Mexican Food
Light Rail West Bound
Novus Parking Garage
Pedestrian Walkway
The Bodhi
Crepe Club Asu
Ebefo Goods LLC
Lot 50E
Cornerstone
Einstein Brothers
Improv Comedy Theater
Trader Joe's
Uni Nails
E University Dr
S Rural Rd
Urban Systems Engineering
Lot 46
Lot 48 Interdisciplinary Science And Technology Bldg II Support
Research Support Services 1
School of Sustainability
WCPH
Health
Hungry Birds
Chevron
Wetzel's Pretzels
Orupo Goods LLC
DP Dough
ASU Goldwater Center (GWC)
S McAllister Mall
Interdisciplinary Science And Technology Building II
Psychology North
E Krueger St
Tyler Street Parking Structure (McAllister & Tyler)
Univeristy Drive/ Rural Station
Valley Metro Rail Stop
E Tyler St
Learning &

RESOURCE LIBRARY

FAQs

Where can I go if I get sick during the event?

For concerns such as common viruses, Covid or other similar conditions, you can visit the ASU Health Clinic or CVS Minute Clinic.

Urgent care is located in two locations. Closest to Hyatt is Honor Health urgent care next to Macayo's. Closest to Omni is the University Health Walk In Clinic on Mill Ave between 9th and 10th street. Honor Health hospital is the nearest hospital to campus for medical emergencies. *If a participant is unable to attend, both their institutional contact and Model USDA organizers must be notified as soon as possible. Inquire with organizers if substitutions are possible. Registration fees are non-refundable.*

How can I stay safe and be alerted to safety concerns on campus/in Tempe?

You can download the LiveSafe app by following the instructions on this page **ASU LiveSafe mobile app | Arizona State University**. LiveSafe has many safety features also listed here. If you are walking around campus or inside the parking garage, you will find blue light emergency call boxes. Emergency call boxes provide a direct and immediate connection with emergency services.

The ASU PD office is located at the Southeast corner of College Ave and Apache Blvd and the non-emergency number is 480-965-3456.

What should I wear?

Most of Model USDA will take place in the Walton Center for Planetary Health atrium, which is located outdoors. Arizona may be known for its extreme desert temperatures, but during the winter months, temperatures can drop significantly at night. The days will be comfortable enough for pants and a t-shirt, but a light jacket is recommended for the early mornings and later evenings. Typical temperatures this time of year range from the 70s during the day to the 40s at night. There is shade in the atrium, but you may want to bring a hat and/or sunscreen.

Business casual is recommended for Model USDA, but students are encouraged to embrace their role in their mode of dress for the scenario. You may want to dress a bit more formally as a

high-ranking official, or add a cowboy hat or boots to your business attire if you represent a Western-based organization. As you walk around and negotiate with peers, comfortable shoes are a must.

Is the building accessibility-friendly?

All doors at WCPH have an accessibility button that can be pressed to automatically open as needed. There are accessibility seats in the auditorium. Accessible parking spaces are available within Novus garage.

I'm going to have a vehicle, where do I park on campus?

If you're staying at the designated hotels, coordinate with the hotel for parking. If you're not staying at the designated hotel, you can park in Novus Garage (747 S Packard Dr, Tempe, AZ 85281) during the day. Day pass parking validation will be provided. Enter the garage as normally, pull a ticket and make sure to hold on to this ticket. Parking validations for day pass parking are available at Model USDA check-in/registration.

You can cross from Novus to WCPH on the street level at University & Rural or by the pedestrian bridge. Accessible parking is available within the Novus garage. There is no overnight parking allowed. Make sure to exit the garage before 11:30 pm to avoid an additional parking charge. If you run into any gate issues while entering/exiting the garage press the intercom help button on the kiosk which will connect you directly to the parking dispatch team.

EV Parking: There are EV chargers on level 2 of Novus garage including one ADA EV charging station.

I'm unable to connect to the ASU guest WiFi/Login Issues

ASU has a 24/7 Help Desk available at 855-278-5080 (not toll free) that can assist you with ASU WiFi troubleshooting as well as provide login and Duo 2FA support. For steps on how to log in to the ASU Guest WiFi click **here**.

How do I get to my hotel and the event venue (WCPH)?

Visit the **Easy ways to travel** webpage for guidance on options, including bus and light rail. You can also use services like pay-to-use scooters and rideshares, such as *Uber*, *Lyft*, or *Waymo*, if needed.

From Omni, the WCPH is just under a mile down the road. Omni is on the southeast corner of Mill Ave & University Drive. Walk east on University Drive. The WCPH is on the southwest corner of Rural Road & University Drive.

The Hyatt is located across University Dr from the WCPH. To reach WCPH by walking or pay to use scooters, you will take a left on to Veterans Way and another left once you reach University Dr. From here, you can either use the pedestrian walkway or cross at the intersection. There is no public transportation between these two locations.

How will I know where to go once I arrive on campus?

Once you arrive at the Walton Center, you will be greeted by wayfinders to help guide you to the designated locations of the event.

Where can I grab a coffee/something to eat?

Meals will be provided during the Model USDA event.

You will receive an email to inform us of any dietary restrictions you may have so they can be accounted for during meals. To ensure you receive the accommodating meal option you asked for, locate a staff attendant near the food buffets so they can direct you to the appropriate options.

> *Note*: **No** food is allowed in the auditorium. **Only** water is allowed, and it must be in sealed, spill-proof containers.

If you are looking for places to visit outside of Model USDA and explore what Tempe has to offer, here is a recommended starting list of local restaurants and cafes below:

Coffee and Tea:

- King Coffee
- Cafetal Coffee & Familia
- Cartel Roasting Co.
- Infusion Coffee & Tea Crafters

Food (quickly prepared):

- Original ChopShop
- Postino Annex
- CAVA
- Flower Child

Grocery & Supermarkets:

- Trader Joe's
- Whole Foods Market

**Both offer many grab & go meal options due to proximity to ASU Campus*

And many more!

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