



SUNY ONEONTA
MIGRANT LEADERSHIP ACADEMY
(SOMLA) 2026

WHAT IS SOMLA

The SUNY Oneonta Migrant Leadership Academy (SOMLA) is a NYS-MEP summer program that provides eligible migrant students with the opportunity to learn about college, work possibilities, leadership qualities, and successful life strategies as they work towards graduating high school. Students explore various life skills, learn about leveraging their individual strengths and create a long-term plan to work on areas of personal growth that reflects their passions and interests. Students get to stay in residence halls just like traditional college students and have the chance to experience what life is like on campus!

Transportation to and from SUNY Oneonta and three meals a day will be provided (and of course, snacks, too!). But that's not all ~ There are other fun activities that you won't want to miss, and you will even have a chance to complete some community service hours for your high school and earn college credit!

WHY PARTICIPATE

INSTRUCTION - Take the opportunity to experience classes led by college professors and learn alongside other migrant students in a supportive environment.

LEADERSHIP - Learn about leadership and engage in activities that help you explore your own potential.

MENTORSHIP - Build relationships and receive one-on-one support from bilingual staff in small groups.

DID WE MENTION COLLEGE CREDIT? - One college credit will be granted to students for Transition Skills for Emerging Leaders (INTD 122) after successfully completing the program. This interactive course is designed to assist students in developing skills necessary toward ultimately obtaining a bachelor's degree. Students will learn critical skills to enhance success in college learning. Students will learn to systematically evaluate their own behavior, skills and attitudes that impact their academic outcomes.

WHO SHOULD APPLY

Currently eligible migrant students who will be in eleventh or twelfth grade in September 2026.

AND

Students who are willing to actively commit to academic, leadership, and service activities.

NYS-MEP STUDENTS ARE ELIGIBLE FOR A FULL SCHOLARSHIP

This is a value of over \$5,000 per student! NYS-MEP believes in each student and invests, knowing that SOMLA is a great jumpstart to students' futures. Don't miss out on this opportunity to come make new friends and experience a bit of college life!

WHEN AND WHERE

Sunday, July 12, 2026 –
Friday, July 17, 2026.

SUNY Oneonta Campus
108 Ravine Parkway
Oneonta, NY 13820



WHAT TO EXPECT

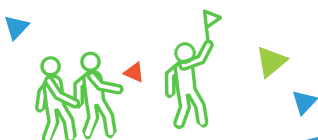
Instruction from certified educators

Exciting activities and meaningful leadership workshops

One-on-one support from counselors and staff

Opportunities to connect with peers from across New York State and make friends

All students will be under adult supervision 24 hours per day and will be transported for any off-campus activities.





March 2026

Dear Parent/Guardian:

Congratulations on the nomination of your child to attend the SUNY Oneonta Migrant Leadership Academy (SOMLA). This program will provide your child with leadership, guidance and support while completing one college credit by the end of their experience.

Your child will have the unique opportunity to participate in a program that consists of academic and leadership workshops along with the experience of living on a college campus. Please ensure that your child comes ready to engage in many learning experiences. Since cell phones are a distraction to student focus, use will be restricted throughout the day.

The program will begin **Sunday, July 12th** and it will end on **Friday, July 17th**. We will cover your child's room, board, and any materials they may need during their stay at SUNY Oneonta. Transportation will also be provided for students attending SOMLA. Students do not need to bring any money since SOMLA will provide "dragon dollars" for students to spend on campus.

Enclosed are a Medical Consent form and the Permission and Release form. These forms must be completed and returned by **June 5th**. It is necessary for these to be on file for your child to participate in the program.

The following is an abbreviated list of the rules and regulations. If any rules are violated, parents will be contacted immediately, and the student will be required to leave.

- We will adhere to all SUNY Oneonta policies
- Limited cell phone use will be strictly enforced
- Students are not permitted to visit the lodging rooms of students of the opposite sex
- Possession, or being in the presence, of alcoholic beverages is prohibited
- Illegal drugs, electronic cigarettes, and drug paraphernalia is prohibited
- Illegal, disruptive, disorderly behavior or excessive noise is prohibited
- Weapons: possession or keeping of a deadly instrument on campus or use of any object with intent to harm another is prohibited
- Candles, any open flame devices, or fuel of any type is prohibited
- If your child is sick, he/she might need to be send back home. We will communicate with you if that is the case prior of dropping the student at your home

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me at (585) 208-8555.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Odilia Coffta". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Odilia Coffta, Principal

Enclosures



March 2026

Dear Student:

Congratulations on your nomination to attend the SUNY Oneonta Migrant Leadership Academy (SOMLA)! Enclosed you will find important information regarding what you can expect during your participation at SOMLA. We have designed this program so it will provide you with leadership, guidance and support while completing one college credit by the end of this experience.

The program will begin **Sunday, July 12th** and it will end **Friday, July 17th**. We will cover your room, board, and any materials that you might need during your stay at SUNY Oneonta. Transportation will also be provided for students attending SOMLA. However, it is important that you are ready on the agreeable time and location and that you communicate any changes with your designated driver as soon as you can.

Here is a small sample of items you might want to bring: umbrella, some warm clothes, sneakers, toiletries, and prescription medication. You **SHOULD NOT** bring pets, microwaves, toaster ovens, hot plates, or anything that could be deemed contraband. Limited cell phone use will be strictly enforced.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me at (585) 208-8555.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Odilia Coffta". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Odilia Coffta, Principal

SUNY Oneonta Migrant Leadership Academy

What to Bring:

- ✓ Form of Personal Identification (Photo ID)
- ✓ Sneakers (comfortable shoes)
- ✓ Laundry detergent (not required, but suggested)
- ✓ Clothing appropriate for warm & cool temperatures and closing celebration
- ✓ Sunblock and bathing suit
- ✓ Umbrella/rain jacket/poncho
- ✓ Bookbag or backpack
- ✓ Toiletries & hair care products
- ✓ Towels, washcloths, flip flops
- ✓ Feminine Products
- ✓ Attire for volunteer day (comfortable clothes and shoes that you do not mind getting dirty)
- ✓ Attire for formal reception (male: shirt and tie, female: dress pants and shirt or dress or skirt below the knee)

Limited cell phone use will be strictly enforced

Limited headphone use will be strictly enforced

DO NOT BRING:

- ✓ Television
- ✓ Refrigerator
- ✓ Speakers/Large stereo system
- ✓ Desktop computer