

AWARD SUBMITTAL FAQs

CAN I STILL SUBMIT AN ENTRY IF I DON'T SUBMIT AN "INTENT TO ENTER"?

Yes, but please inform ACEC/M about your entry as soon as possible. Intent to Enter helps us understand which project types will be entered so that we can secure qualified judges with appropriate technical backgrounds.

CAN I SUBMIT IF I AM A SUB-CONSULTANT ON THE PROJECT?

Yes, however you can only represent the work done by your firm on the project. Consideration should be given to a joint submittal with your prime consultant to develop a more comprehensive entry.

CAN I SUBMIT A LONG-TERM PROJECT THAT EXCEEDS THE TWO-YEAR ELIGIBILITY PERIOD?

A long-term project is welcome but only the portion of the project "substantially completed and ready for use" during the two-year eligibility period will be considered by the judges.

ARE ELECTRONIC SIGNATURES ON THE ENTRY FORM ACCEPTABLE?

Yes, the form was created for electronic signatures by the firm and owner.

WHAT DOES THE "SUBSTANTIALLY COMPLETE AND READY FOR USE" REQUIREMENT MEAN?

As a generally defined term in a contract, substantially complete and ready for use means that the owner can use the project as intended and only minor punch list type work remains to be completed. However, you must decide when is the best time to submit your project within the two-year eligibility period provided. Consider your client's level of support, quality of project photography, time available to complete the entry, and any other issues that may affect your submittal's overall success. You want to tell the best story you can in text and visuals.

HOW DO THE PROJECT PHOTOS I SUBMIT GET USED?

A minimum of four and maximum of six photos can be included for each submittal and should be numbered in the order you would like them to be used. Photo 1 should be considered your best overall image and will be used in the award brochure. Photos 1, 2, 3 and 4 will be used in the slide show at the banquet and may be included on the ACEC/M website.

WHAT MATERIAL SHOULD I MOUNT MY PROJECT PANEL ON?

As specified in the guidelines, your project panel should be mounted on a rigid, lightweight board, not exceeding 1/4" thick so the boards are easy for us to transport. Suggested mounting materials include gatorboard or foamcore.

HOW ARE THE PROJECT PANELS USED AFTER THE COMPETITION?

All project panels are displayed at the Awards Gala as well as other ACEC/M events throughout the year to promote our local industry, professional consultants and projects. Top winners are on display at the ACEC/M office.

WHO JUDGES THE PROJECTS?

Judging is conducted by an independent panel of judges. There are separate judges for the engineering and surveying entries. Qualified judges are selected to ensure each category is represented by a professional.

CAN I GO ON TO COMPETE IN THE ACEC NATIONAL COMPETITION?

Projects that receive an Eminent or Honorable Conceptor Award at the state level are eligible to enter the national competition. Merit award winners are not eligible.

JUDGING CRITERIA PROMPTS

These questions are intended to help you brainstorm award submittal content to effectively address each category of judging criteria. They are not meant to be directly answered in your submittal and some questions may not apply to your entry.

ORIGINAL OR INNOVATIVE APPLICATION OF NEW OR EXISTING TECHNIQUES

Does the entry demonstrate the use of a new science or a breakthrough in general knowledge of engineering?

Does the entry represent a unique application of new or existing technology, techniques, materials or equipment?

How was the solution developed for this project different from a similar project?

FUTURE VALUE TO THE ENGINEERING OR SURVEYING PROFESSION

Will the entry redefine current engineering or surveying thinking?

How could someone else use what your firm did to solve a similar problem?

SOCIAL, ECONOMIC AND SUSTAINABLE DESIGN CONSIDERATIONS

Do the solutions identified produce secondary benefits of value to the community and/or environment?

Does the entrant's approach provide society with social, economic, or sustainable development benefits?

Does the entrant's contribution to the project improve the health, safety or welfare of the public or affected environment?

COMPLEXITY

Did the entry successfully address highly complex criteria or unique problems?

Were extraordinary problems of site, location, hazardous conditions, project requirements, or similar elements present?

Did the entry require the use of out-of-the-ordinary technology or ingenuity for achievement of the project's goals?

EXCEEDING CLIENT/OWNER NEEDS

Did the entrant successfully engage the client/owner in the overall project development process?

Was the solution cost-effective? How did the project save money?

How did the final cost relate to the original budget estimate?

How closely does the entrant's solution meet the total goals of the client/owner? How does the project exceed the original goals?

Was the client's schedule met? Did you save time with the design or technology?

What made this a quality project?