



ASGCA MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

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INTRODUCTION

Thank you for your interest in [ASGCA](#). We believe you will find membership in a well-respected professional association to be one of your best experiences as a professional.

The missions of the ASGCA are much the same today as at the first meeting in Pinehurst in 1947. ASGCA strives to serve the profession and game with efforts to:

- **Grow, Foster, and Advance** the great game of golf.
- **Foster professionalism** in golf course architecture through education, promotion, advocacy, and fellowship among the world's leading golf course architects.
- **Support design excellence** of the professionals who create strategically, aesthetically, and technically excellent golf courses that meet the economic, environmental, and other needs of owners, developers, and communities.
- **Expand opportunities for ASGCA members** to better serve both clients and the game.
- **Work in partnership** with allied associations, educational establishments, and government bodies.
- Strive for and promote a **collaborative, diverse and inclusive professional membership**.

WHAT IS A GOLF COURSE ARCHITECT?

A professional golf course architect is an individual who by virtue of their knowledge of the game, training, experience, design vision, technical skill, environmental sensitivity, and construction knowledge, works with their clients to provide designs that balance the imaginative and pragmatic, meet the owner's needs, enhances their site, and exemplifies the highest standards and traditions of golf.

The term architect derives from the Latin *architectus*, which derives from the Greek (archi-master + tektôn-builder¹). For professional golf course architects, the ability to envision great golf holes, pre-plan, and then guide construction are all equally important. This can be achieved by many professional practice methods, including design/bid, design/build, and design/construction administration or management.

There are a broad range of projects in golf course architecture. Many golf course architects specialize in different areas, including public/resort vs. private, and new courses vs. renovating existing courses by modernization, restorations, infrastructure upgrades, and targeted or long-term renovations.

Please note that ASGCA membership is individual. Design firms or other business entities cannot attain membership status in ASGCA.

¹ [Merriam-Webster](#)

MEMBER BENEFITS

Golf course architecture is a diverse profession with many entry points and practice methods. Being a member of ASGCA means that no matter where you started, you have achieved recognition of your proficiency from your peers and others. *Some of the advantages of your membership will include:*

Professional Interaction and Camaraderie –

Interacting and discussing golf course architecture with likeminded professionals ranks among the prime benefits of ASGCA. You will meet people that you would never have met and have architectural discussions you would never have had.

Friendly Environment –

You will be welcomed at your first meeting, and soon make life-long personal and professional friends through ASGCA.

Shared Knowledge –

Members learn something new from their peers at every gathering. Bob Cupp urged his proteges to join ASGCA, saying, “I’ll teach you all I can, but joining ASGCA is like having 160 mentors.” Others say ASGCA is a virtual “PhD in Golf Course Architecture”. [Sports and Leisure Research](#) notes that ASGCA members are the most willing to share information among any of the professional organizations they have worked with.

Great Golf –

Our annual meetings focus on studying and playing the best golf courses. ASGCA allows members to play courses they would have never played,

Golf Course Architecture Specific Education –

With no licensing or formal education, and professionals with truly diverse backgrounds, the ASGCA provides education that is relevant to golf course designers, including history, current issues, design theory, business, and technical skills. We have seminars, webinars, and online toolkits to help members increase their knowledge. We are adding new resources all the time.

Support the Profession –

Your dues allow ASGCA to promote and advocate for golf course architects, and when needed, defend the profession from unreasonable regulatory and public perception issues that affect your interests as a golf course architect. If you like giving back, ASGCA is a great vehicle for golf course architects.

Industry Exposure and Promotion –

ASGCA allows members to meet a wide range of industry participants like other architects, contractors, shapers, superintendents, manufacturers, rules makers and more, expanding your exposure and influence within and outside of the industry.

ASGCA works hard to showcase its members via social media, speaking engagements, seminars, webinars, and podcasts, which can enhance your visibility and status in a competitive market.

Meetings & Study Tours –

ASGCA conducts a golf and education oriented annual meetings in the fall, featuring great golf courses, formal and informal education, social hours, and a robust program for spouses and non-golfers, including our annual Ross Award and President's Dinners.

We also have annual education-oriented winter meetings at the GCSAA Show, and architecture-oriented study tours at great courses nationwide. ASGCA also organizes bi-annual study trips with architects from Australia, Asia, and Europe, rotating among different countries.

Free Admission –

ASGCA members gain free admission to many professional golf events (PGA, LPGA and Champions Tour) and the annual GCSAA show with many other discounts and privileges that are in the works!

Tartan! –

Being a member of ASGCA allows you to proudly wear the Ross-tartan jacket, which is one of the best-known symbols of the golf industry.

APPLICATION PROCESS

Our two-phase membership review process incorporates a mixture of *qualitative* and *quantitative* considerations, where the whole is more important than any individual point in demonstrating an applicant's knowledge, core skills, and professional experience in golf course architecture.

In Phase I applicants submit biographical and work history information, as well as a minimum of 5 projects representative of their work to determine if they appear to meet the *quantitative* requirements for attaining ASGCA membership.

In Phase II applicants who have been preliminarily assessed as meeting the quantitative requirements for membership will submit more detailed information about their work and practice, including client and sponsor letters and evaluations, representative plans, and will be interviewed to further learn about their work and practice, with a focus on *qualitative* requirements for attaining ASGCA membership.

The ASGCA Director of Outreach shall answer any questions about ASGCA or the membership process, and assist the applicant in completing Phase I, as well as review the application. After this review, the Director of Outreach will explain and notify the applicant of the recommendation to either:

- Suspend the application until we believe the applicant qualifies, or
- Forward the application to the Membership Committee Chairperson to begin Phase II of the application process.

The Director of Outreach shall keep the applicant apprised regarding progress on the application, throughout Phase II and continue to assist applicants and the Membership Committee regarding all aspects of the application process.

After membership committee review and decision, the Director of Outreach or Membership Chairperson will notify applicant of his/her membership status.

PHASE I REQUIREMENTS

The applicant should meet the following general requirements before instituting the Phase I application forms, verifying that he/she is:

- **Currently and has been actively and primarily engaged in professional golf course architecture** (i.e., *has received compensation for golf course architecture services in most years since first entering the profession*).
- **Practices the profession in a competent, responsible, and ethical manner** (see ASGCA's *Code of Professional Ethics on page 12*).
- **A citizen or legal resident of the United States, Canada, or Mexico, and/or own, be employed by, or working under contract for an established golf course architectural firm(s) with a main or branch office based in North America.**
- **Has had major and/or primary design responsibility for constructed golf course design projects, whether construction of the design achieved via design-bid, design-build, or any other recognized implementation method. The applicant's involvement in the design and construction of the course must be such that:**
 - The client references recognize the applicant as a **key contributor** to their project if an employee of a recognized golf course design firm, and/or the "**golf course architect of record**" if a principal of a firm.
 - If an employee of a golf architecture firm, their employer would consider the applicant to:
 - Have been a **key contributor** in most phases of the submitted project.
 - Believes that the applicant can produce a complete design project, even if the applicant didn't perform 100% of any submitted project. (ASGCA recognizes that most firms use collaborative processes and don't expect 100% of any design or production related task on any individual submitted project.)

Notes:

- Applicant need not draw final plans if principal of a firm.
- ASGCA does not have any standard regarding design plans.
- Field design, shaping, and construction administration of your firm's designs qualifies as participation in a representative project.

PHASE I APPLICATION

The applicant's Phase I submittal shall use the standard 2023 fillable forms to list their significant projects and other golf course architecture experiences. The application should include:

APPLICANT INFORMATION

The first form of the application asks you to provide personal and work information, as well as an overview of your work and the projects you plan to submit. [Click here to access the form.](#)

REPRESENTATIVE PROJECTS

The applicant shall submit:

- A listing of their professional work, which may be their existing promotional materials or course list and CV that convey their professional design and golf course related experience. If available, please also include a headshot file image.
- More detail on at least Five (5) projects on the “[Representative Projects Form](#).” All must have opened or with construction completed through “substantial completion.” These five (5) “Representative Projects” must be either a:
 - **New Golf Course Facilities** - on a virgin site or a near totally new configuration of a golf course on an existing site.
 - *Note: Designs for multiple courses at one facility count as separate projects, i.e., a 27-hole facility would count as an 18 and 9-hole design.*
 - **Renovated Golf Course Facilities** - that encompass constructed alterations to a significant portion of the golf course facility, like putting greens and surrounding features; tee complexes; hazards and bunkers; portions of fairway and rough areas; drainage; cart paths; trees/landscaping; and grassing. The design intent may be either redesign or restoration.

If not already contained within the five (5) “Representative Projects,” the applicant shall provide at least one other professionally prepared routing / substantial re-routing, whether built or not. [Click here to access the form.](#)

For each submitted “Representative Project” the applicant shall fill out information on the “[Representative Course Form](#)” detailing their role in the project for review by their client and sponsors. [Click here to access the form.](#)

Notes:

- At least three of the five representative courses submitted shall have been designed and construction completed within the last ten years.
- Golf courses that opened and subsequently closed for business conditions may be submitted with documentation that they once existed.
- Representative Projects may be used by only one applicant.

ASGCA SPONSORS – PHASE I

The applicant will need three sponsors in Phase II, and if the applicant knows any ASGCA members who will sponsor them, they should list them in their application form. If they do not know of any, ASGCA will (as part of Phase II) assist them in finding sponsors.

- If an associate in an existing firm, the principal of the firm must endorse their application and qualifications. Their employer shall be a recognized golf course architect (whether a member of ASGCA or not).
- Three (3) ASGCA sponsors who will further evaluate the candidate during Phase II of the application process. These should be:
 - Regular or Fellow members of ASGCA.
 - If the applicant's employer is an ASGCA member, they can also serve as a sponsor.
 - Only one member of any firm can sponsor an applicant.
- A minimum of three (3) of the applicant's "Representative Projects" will be evaluated by sponsors in Phase II. Two sponsors cannot review the same project.

Sponsors must:

- **Be previously familiar with you and your work, or**
- If they are not familiar with your work, they should **arrange to visit one of your representative projects with you** to evaluate the course. Be aware that sponsors may ask:
 - To be compensated for travel expenses by the applicant.
 - For other information relevant to that project, including plans and specifications.
- **Review your "Representative Project Form"** to their satisfaction to confirm the applicant's role.
- **Contact the Project Owner** to get the owner's understanding of your role in the projects and report that information in the sponsor form.
- **Complete a sponsor form**, which will verify the information listed above.

PHASE II APPLICATION

If recommended to pursue Phase II, the Director of Outreach will further assist the applicant and monitor progress in completing the Phase II application, in which the applicant will compile the required information in an orderly manner, using electronic submissions as much as possible. Phase II focuses on *qualitative* requirements for ASGCA and is the final stage of the formal application process.

GENERAL INFORMATION

- Include the Phase I application so it is handy to review in one place, including any data and/or explanative narrative not originally submitted on all five (5) representative projects listed on the Phase I forms. You can include course information as available, including any photographs, yardage books, images of awards and recognitions, etc.
(if not submitted in Phase I).
- One **complete** set of scaled plans, specifications, field sketches, etc. from one (1) representative project. Given the diversity of the profession, there is no set standard for plan submittals, other than they be representative of your typical workflow. Digital plans and scans are preferred and can be reduced in scale to fit no more than 11 x 17 sheets, if possible.
- Five (5) Client Reference Letters.
- Three (3) completed ASGCA Sponsor Forms.

ASGCA SPONSORS – PHASE II

Finalizing Proposed Sponsors/Evaluators – 3 ASGCA regular members with Regular or Fellow membership status must evaluate and sponsor you to attain membership. Many applicants proposed their own sponsors in Phase I. If you know fewer than 3 ASGCA members, the membership committee will assist you in finding the other(s). Their requirements are listed in the Phase I section on page 8. Additionally:

- One sponsor must be the head of the applicant’s firm, if applicable.
- The applicant shall have no more than one sponsor from any single firm.
- An individual ASGCA member may sponsor up to 3 applicants per year.

The ASGCA Sponsor Form can be found by clicking [here](#).

INTERVIEW

With the submittal complete and accepted, the applicant will be scheduled for an interview with the membership chairperson and others on the membership committee. Members of the Executive Committee, Board of Governors, and other Regular ASGCA members may also be present.

The interview may be in person at a convenient time and location (many take place at the annual GCSAA show) or virtually by Zoom, etc. The interview will focus on:

- A review of one of the representative projects, including design concepts, technical proficiency, and philosophy your submitted projects. The applicant should bring hard copies of documents to the interview if conducted in person.
- Formal questions designed to:
 - Illustrate your knowledge of the profession.
 - Hear what you hope to attain by joining ASGCA.
 - Hear what you look forward to contributing to ASGCA.
- Informal discussion of design issues and philosophy, and what you should expect from ASGCA.

APPLICATION SCHEDULE

After the interview, we will:

- Take a committee vote on applicant.
- Inform applicant of committee's decision to accept, reject, or table the application.
- If the committee votes yes, send the application to the Board of Governors, who ultimately decide on all issues, including membership. The Board of Governors normally votes on applicants via email, which can occur at any time.
- Alert applicant of acceptance and provide necessary support to start membership including:
 - General Information About ASGCA, important dates, etc.
 - Access Code to Members Only Section of the ASGCA website
 - Pairing you with an experienced member (probably one of your sponsors) as your guide to your first ASGCA events.
 - Applicants should be aware that if elected to membership, they are required, by ASGCA By-Laws, to attend the next ASGCA Annual Meeting following notification of acceptance, unless the meeting is held outside the United States. We encourage all members to attend as many meetings as possible.
 - Once an applicant has been accepted as an ASGCA member, the annual dues are \$1,500; plus, a \$75 donation to the ASGCA Foundation.
 - New Members will be invoiced for:

- A proportional amount of the annual dues to cover dues for the remainder of the first year. (i.e., if accepted on September 1, 3/12 of the current annual dues.
- Dues for the new member's first full year are sent in December and payable in January.
- Two ASGCA ties and enough Ross tartan material to have an ASGCA blazer tailored.

Note: The completed application process can be finalized at any time.

With our Annual Meeting in October, if the application can be *completed by July 31st* of the application year, and the applicant has been accepted, they will be eligible to attend that year's Annual Meeting.

Similarly, if the application can be *completed by December 31st* of the application year, and the applicant has been accepted, they will be eligible to attend the next annual Winter Meeting.

APPLICATION FEE

There is a non-refundable Phase II application fee of \$500, made payable by check to "ASGCA," or can request to be invoiced to pay via credit card online. Please mail a check to the address below or call the office at the number provided should you require an invoice or to pay by credit card.

American Society of Golf Course Architects

155 S. Executive Drive, Suite 1

Brookfield, Wisconsin 53005

☎ (262) 786-5930

ASGCA CODE OF PROFESSIONAL ETHICS

All individuals applying for membership in the ASGCA acknowledge that they have read the following ASGCA Code of Professional Ethics and that by applying, they have upheld the same standards of conduct for their previous practices as a golf course architect.

The ASGCA Code of Professional Ethics expresses the professional conduct expected of members of the Society and is intended as a guide to ethical and responsible behavior in the practice of their profession. It is not intended to restrict legitimate competition or the business practices of each member, but to provide a standard of conduct for the actions and operations of all Members. This conduct will be under review by the Society at the time of application and for all prior and subsequent actions of Members in their professional practices.

- I. Members shall reconcile the requirements of the game of golf with the preservation and protection of our natural resources, systems, and environment, balancing these elements with the economic, social and aesthetic needs of golf's development.
- II. Members shall encourage education and research and promote the development and dissemination of useful information to improve the planning, design, and construction of golf courses.
- III. Members shall not discriminate against any employee, applicant, client, or others involved in their work on account of sex, race, age, creed, or national origin.
- IV. Members shall not engage in any practices that involve dishonesty, fraud, deceit, bribery, or misrepresentation in securing or executing their work.
- V. Members shall not promote themselves or their services with false, exaggerated, or misleading information and publicity.
- VI. Members shall report truthfully and clearly to their prospective client or employer their qualifications and capabilities to perform services.
- VII. Members shall make full disclosure to their client or employer any financial or other interest they may have in any part of their project. Members shall avoid, abandon, or remove such interests if they compromise their actions or prevent them from serving the best interest of their client or employer.
- VIII. Members shall recognize and respect the work of other golf course architects and shall not knowingly make statements or offer opinions and comments that are false or attempt to injure or disparage their practice, projects, or any of their work.
- IX. Members shall not attempt to obtain or offer to undertake any commission that they know is already under a legitimate contract or agreement with another golf course architect.
- X. Members shall not accept any commission until they have ascertained that any former legitimate contract or agreement with another golf course architect has been terminated. This shall be done by soliciting information and evidence from the client or employer and the other golf course architect.

APPENDIX: FORMS AND CONTACT INFORMATION

For quick reference, the following forms are those required to complete the ASGCA membership application process. These can also be found on our website at asgca.org/join.

Phase I, Part 1: [General Application Form](#)

Phase I, Part 2: [Representative Projects Form](#)

Phase II: [ASGCA Sponsor Form](#)

To submit your \$500 application fee, please send a check to the address listed below. If you'd prefer to be invoiced to pay via check or with credit card, please contact the ASGCA office at the number listed below.

American Society of Golf Course Architects

155 S. Executive Drive, Suite 1

Brookfield, Wisconsin 53005

📞 (262) 786-5930

For questions regarding the membership application process, please reach out to:

Jeff Brauer, ASGCA Director of Outreach

📞 (817) 797-6396 📧 jeff@asgca.org

Chris Wilczynski, ASGCA Membership Committee Chair | [C.W. Golf Architecture](#)

📞 (734) 395-7941 📧 chris@cwgolfarch.com