



ASGCA TARTAN PROGRAM APPLICATION

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INTRODUCTION

Thank you for your interest in [ASGCA's Tartan Program](#). We believe you will find your participation in ASGCA – both as a Tartan and eventually as a member, will be one of your best experiences as a professional.

Members and existing Tartan Participants agree that the first few years of the “Tartan Program” has been good for everyone. Tartan participants get education and networking opportunities, and members have forged relationships – and sometimes working relationships - with younger golf course architects, who help them with projects and even help extend their careers.

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**.



Tartan Program Education Session
October 2022 | Providence Rhode Island



Donald Ross Award Banquet
October 2022 | Providence Rhode Island

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, enhance their site, and exemplify the highest standards and traditions of golf.

The term architect derives from the Latin *architectus*, which derives from the Greek (archi-master + tektōn-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.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION AND PURPOSE

ASGCA full membership is for established golf course architects with a design portfolio of at least five major golf course design projects. In 2021 the ASGCA expanded opportunities for emerging architects who are still building their portfolio, by creating the *ASGCA Tartan Program*.

Overseen by the ASGCA Membership Committee, the ASGCA Tartan Program is open to golf course architects domiciled in North America and currently working in golf architecture and construction, with some design responsibilities.

¹ Merriam-Webster

TARTAN PROGRAM PARTICIPANT BENEFITS

Attendance at ASGCA meetings and events:

- **Annual Meeting** - up to two days at the beginning of the event. 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 one of our annual Ross Award or President's Dinners available to Tartan Participants. (with significant other)
- **Winter Meeting at the GCSAA Show** - We also have annual education-oriented winter meetings at the GCSAA Show and Tartans also get free admission to the Trade Show.
- **Regional Golf Gatherings and Study Tours** - 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. Tartan participants' access to these events is subject to availability, with spots offered to ASGCA regular members first.
- **Participation in ASGCA professional development**, including seminars & webinars,
- **Annual "Tartan Only" education programs**, held in conjunction with Annual Meeting
- **Mentorship from ASGCA Member** if requested.
- **Access to ASGCA newsletters** ("Essentials" and "E-News Alert")
- **Eligibility to apply** for ASGCA/GCSAA AHP-administered health insurance.

ADDITIONAL BENEFITS

Tartan Participants also receive the lion's share of general benefits of regular membership:

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, study tours, and regional golf outings focus on studying and playing the best golf courses, often at difficult to access courses.

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.

Support the Profession –

Your Tartan Program 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 –

Tartan Program participants who attend the available meetings will 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.

Streamlined Application for Regular Membership –

The Tartan Program application form is almost identical to the regular membership form in many ways. When applying for regular membership this will ease the process

Tartan Program participants do not have access to:

- Personal Member page at ASGCA.org.
- Access to “Members Only” section of website (currently being enhanced).
- Participation in ASGCA leadership opportunities.
- Ability to sponsor Regular ASGCA Member or Tartan Program Participant applications.
- First shot at spots for ASGCA Study Tours.
- Speaking and writing opportunities for interested members.
- Job-Lead Program for Members.
- Advertising themselves as ASGCA members, but may use the phrase “ASGCA Tartan Participant” on their letterheads, emails, etc.



Erin Hills Golf Course

One of the courses being played at the 2023 ASGCA Annual Meeting in October

TARTAN PROGRAM QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

The applicant must:

- Have at least three years' experience as a golf course architect in any recognized implementation method, like design-bid, design-build, or design-project management.
- Secure the sponsorship of two ASGCA Members.
- Adhere to the same Code of Professional Ethics as ASGCA Members (*see ASGCA's Code of Professional Ethics on [page 9](#)*).

The applicant should also meet the following general requirements before applying for the Tartan Program, verifying that he/she is:

- **Currently is active in the field of golf course design and construction.**
- **Practices the profession in a competent, responsible, and ethical manner** (*see ASGCA's Code of Professional Ethics on [page 9](#)*).
- **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 some 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 that has been recognized by employer and/or client.

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.

COST

There is a **\$250 non-refundable application fee**. Once accepted, the fee to participate is **\$750 annually**, plus the costs of attending ASGCA meetings and events. You will be invoiced for the application and participation fees.

DURATION

Because this program is meant to be an introductory path to ASGCA membership rather than a junior membership category, the nominal period for participation is five (5) years.

However, participants who are working and making progress toward the full membership qualifications may petition the membership committee for an extra year of participation.

APPLICATION PROCESS

The applicant shall initially contact ASGCA Director of Outreach, Jeff Brauer, at jeff@asgca.org or (817) 797-6376 to obtain the online Tartan application documents, which are also available under the “[Join](#)” tab at asgca.org. The Director of Outreach will assist the applicant as needed. the Tartan Committee Chair (in 2023, [Todd Schoeder](#)) may also assist the applicant.

Then:

- 1) Complete the online application forms, supplying the information below.
- 2) Confirm sponsorship of two ASGCA Members
- 3) Email the form and list of projects to ASGCA: jeff@ASGCA.org
- 4) Upon completing the forms, there will be an interview.

5)

APPLICANTS BIO

The first form of the application asks you to fill in your important personal and work data. Click [HERE](#) to access the **General Applicant Form (Form 1 of 2)**.

REPRESENTATIVE PROJECTS

The applicant shall submit:

- A listing of their professional work, which may be their existing promotional materials or course list and portfolio/resume that convey their professional design and golf course related experience.
- More detail on at least three (3) “Representative Projects.” All must have opened or with construction completed through “substantial completion.” These “Representative Projects” must be either:
 - **New Golf Course Facilities** - on a virgin site or a near totally new configuration of a golf course on an existing site.
 - **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.
 - **Partially Renovated Golf Course Facilities** – including practice and other related facilities, as well as any concept or master plans you have worked on.
 - Please submit any plans, specs, sketches, etc. that confirm your participation in the design and/or construction of a golf course project. You will be able to upload electronic files while completing your online forms.

Notes:

- 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.
- **Click [HERE](#) to access the Representative Projects Submission Form (Form 2 of 2).**

ASGCA SPONSORS

The applicant will need two sponsors. 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 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).
- Two (2) ASGCA sponsors who will further evaluate the candidate during 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.

Sponsors must generally:

- Be previously familiar with you and your work, or willing to make investigation into your qualifications via the internet, personal, employer and owner interviews, etc. to confirm the applicant’s role. Sponsor should be convinced that the applicant has had a significant desire to further his/her design career.
- Write a sponsor letter for you, which should contain verification of the information listed above.



ASGCA Members and Tartan Program Participants: GCSAA Show, Orlando, February 2023

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 the 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: FORM AND CONTACT INFORMATION

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

Step 1: [General Application Form](#)

Step 2: [Representative Projects Submission Form](#)

APPLICATION AND PROGRAM FEES

You will be invoiced for the \$250 application fee upon submitting your online forms. Upon acceptance, you will be invoiced for an annual fee of \$750. You will be able to pay via credit card or check. For reference, contact information for ASGCA's home office can be found below.

American Society of Golf Course Architects

155 S. Executive Drive, Suite 1

Brookfield, Wisconsin 53005

☎ (262) 786-5930

For questions regarding the Tartan Program, or participant application process, please reach out to:

Jeff Brauer, ASGCA Director of Outreach

☎ (817) 797-6396 📧 jeff@asgca.org

Todd Schoeder, ASGCA Tartan Program Chair, Owner | Principal Architect, [iConGolf Studio](#)

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