



ASGCA MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Updated: July 9, 2024

Jeff Brauer, ASGCA Director of Outreach

📞 (817) 797-6396 📧 jeff@asgca.org



CONTENTS

Introduction	2
What is a Golf Course Architect?	2
Member Benefits	3
Membership Requirements.....	4
Application Process	7
Phase I	7
Applicant Information	7
Built Golf Holes, Commissioned Design Credits, and Tartan Participation	7
Propose ASGCA Sponsors	8
Phase II.....	9
Submit Plans, Specification	9
ASGCA Sponsors Evaluation.....	9
Obtain Owner Reference Letters	9
Interview	10
Post Interview Schedule	10
ASGCA Code of Professional Ethics	11

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?

ASGCA has defined a professional golf course architect as an individual who, through knowledge of the game, training, experience, design vision, technical skill, environmental sensitivity, and construction, 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 + 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 specific areas, including public/resort vs. private, new courses vs. renovations, modernization vs. restorations, infrastructure upgrades, and single year vs. phased renovations.

Regular Membership in ASGCA is intended for accomplished golf course architects with a substantial work history of successful projects, traditionally defined as the equivalent of 5 golf courses. In the busiest times, we defined that as five (5) new 18-hole golf courses, but for the most

¹ [Merriam-Webster](#)

part, we have accepted major projects whether new or renovated. In 2024, we have redefined that as having designed at least 100 built golf holes. This is more objective, and it allows us to consider an applicant's full body of work, and for architects to accumulate credits for any built golf hole, regardless of project size.

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, Camaraderie and Shared Knowledge –

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.

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.

Friendly Environment –

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

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 relevant education to golf course designers, including history, current issues, design theory, business, and technical skills. We offer seminars, webinars, and online toolkits to help members increase their knowledge, and we are constantly adding new resources.

Support the Profession –

Your dues allow ASGCA to advocate for golf course architects and, when needed, defend the profession from unreasonable regulatory and public perception issues that affect us all. ASGCA is a great vehicle for giving back.

Industry Exposure and Promotion –

ASGCA allows members to meet industry participants in related fields and positions, expanding their exposure and influence within and outside the industry. ASGCA works hard to showcase its members via social media, speaking engagements, seminars, webinars, and podcasts, which enhances your visibility.

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 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 Presidents' 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.

MEMBERSHIP REQUIREMENTS

ASGCA membership is for qualified individuals. Design firms or other business entities cannot attain membership status in ASGCA. Applicants should meet the following requirements before initiating the application forms:

- Currently active and primarily engaged in professional golf course architecture (i.e., has been compensated for services more or less continuously for at least 5 (five) years prior.)
- Has designed at least 100 golf holes, Practice Facilities, and Short Game Areas/Putting Greens to meet the minimum numeric qualification and has approximately 50 built holes in the last 10 (ten) years, as described below.
- Practices the profession in a competent, responsible, and ethical manner (see ASGCA's Code of Professional Ethics on 11).
- 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 staffed and capable main or branch office based in North America.

- Has had major or primary design/planning responsibility on golf course design projects. The applicant's involvement in the project's design should be such that:
 - The client references recognize the applicant as the “Architect of Record” if the principal of the firm commissioned for the project or,
 - If an applicant was under contract or employed by the “Architect of Record,” that firm should be a recognized golf course architect (whether a member of ASGCA or not) and would consider the applicant to:
 - Be their primary “Project Architect” or have made major contributions to the project, with design or field authority to make or modify the design.
 - Be capable of producing a complete design project on their own, even if the applicant didn’t typically perform 100% of the tasks on any one project. (ASGCA recognizes that most firms use collaborative processes.)
- Applicant will ideally have the endorsement of all their previous employers. (We understand that this isn’t always possible!)
- 100 credits are required to meet the minimum numeric qualification, as described in the summary chart depicted in the Phase I application section below.
- Most credits will come from **new or existing holes designed and constructed**. Any hole meeting these requirements may be submitted in the application. For example, if a phased renovation has 7 completed holes, they would earn 7 credits that count towards the numeric membership requirement.
- Applicants also can attain credits for other commissioned design tasks.
- Current ASGCA Tartan Participants may also acquire credits, as outlined below:

Tartan Participation Credits <i>A maximum of 20 Tartan Credits May Count to Membership</i>		
Tartan Participation - 1 Credit Per Year in the Program <i>(Maximum 10)</i>	1	0
ASGCA Meetings (Annual, Winter, Regional) <i>1 Credit Per Event (Max 10)</i>	1	0
ASGCA Committee Service, Projects, or World 100) <i>(Maximum 5)</i>	1	0

Most credits will come from new or existing holes designed and constructed or commissioned design credits as below:

ASGCA 2024 Membership Project History Form			
Spreadsheet Will Total Last Column of Credits			
Project Name:			
Project Submission Number <u>1</u> (Sponsor Reviewed)			
Location:		Holes Built:	
Owner:		Holes	Range SGA
Project Type: (check 1) New <u>Total Reno</u> Partial Reno Unbuilt			
Sponsor/Evaluator:			
Project Dates: Start Finish			
Sponsor/Evaluator:			
Applicants for Regular Membership Need 100 Credits to Numerically Qualify			
Applicants for the Tartan Program Need 20 Credits to Numerically Qualify			
Designed and Constructed Golf Holes <i>including all golf feature design components</i>			
Built Holes (Per Hole), (Max 20 Per Project)		No of	Credit Total
Fully designed new hole, Practice Range, or Short Game Area/Putting Green		1	0
Fully redesigned Hole from Tee to Green, Practice Range, or Short Game Area/Putting Green		1	0
Partially Redesigned Hole, some but <i>not all</i> design components redesigned		0.5	0
Commissioned Design Credits^ <i>A maximum of 20 Commissioned Design Credits Count to Membership</i>			
Total Project Design Credits (Per Project)			
Comprehensive 18 Hole Master Plans* (Including budgets, hole design, phased implementation planning)		3	0
Total Construction Docs Package for Unbuilt Projects (Per Project)			
C.D. Package (Unbuilt Projects, New or Renovation of <i>most</i> holes) **		3	0
Preliminary Concept 9-18 Hole Design Credits for Unbuilt Projects (Per Project) ***			
>9 Hole Routing & Preliminary Concepts for New Course (Typically Exploratory for New Course Projects)		2	0
>9 Hole Full Renovation Concepts (Typically for Renovation Projects Scheduled for One Year Phasing)		2	0
Partial Concepts (<9 Holes) Design Credits for Unbuilt Projects (Per Project) ***			
<9 Holes Routing and Preliminary Concepts for New Course		1	0
<9 Holes Preliminary Concepts for / Partial / Targeted Renovations		1	0
Total Project Credits			0
Notes:			
*Credits Apply In Addition to Built Holes On Renovations			
Comprehensive Master Plans should include hole concept designs, budgets, and implementation Plans			
** If or When Built, Credits Removed in Favor of Built Hole Credits. Minimum 9 Holes			
Plans must be complete at least through at least Construction Documents			
*** Plan Only, Limited Detail			
Estimated Involvement			
Applicant's Self Assessment of Project Participation By Phase in Percent			
Applicant Sponsor			
Environmental			%
Analysis			%
Design Concepts			%
Design Development			%
Construction Documents			%
Bid and Contracts			%
Field Observation			%
Project Management or Shaping			%

APPLICATION PROCESS

Our two-phase membership review process incorporates qualitative and quantitative considerations, where the whole is more important than any individual aspect in demonstrating an applicant's knowledge, core skills, and professional experience in golf course architecture. All aspects are intended to be integrated to identify qualified individuals.

ASGCA staff, primarily the Director of Outreach, Jeff Brauer (817) 797-6376, can speak to any interested applicant and answer questions before applying. There is a non-refundable application fee of \$500, which may be paid via check, credit card, or pay service to:

American Society of Golf Course Architects
155 S. Executive Drive, Suite 1
Brookfield, Wisconsin 53005
☎ (262) 786-5930

PHASE I

Phase I focuses on quantitative requirements for ASGCA. The applicant shall use the standard Phase I 2024 fillable forms to apply, which include:

APPLICANT INFORMATION

The first section asks you to provide personal, educational, and work information and any potential ASGCA sponsors you will want to review and endorse your application.

Note: Click [here](#) to access the first required form and initiate the application process.

BUILT GOLF HOLES, COMMISSIONED DESIGN CREDITS, AND TARTAN PARTICIPATION

The forms allow the applicant to provide information on their most important and representative Projects, listed from most recent to older projects. They include the Project Name, Location, and Type (new, total redesign, partial redesign), the Owner, your employer and title (if applicable), and the number of holes where you have participated in the design. All must have opened or been constructed through “substantial completion.”

Courses that were completed and then closed are eligible. You must also approximate your participation in each phase of the design process (which will be reviewed by their sponsors, but ASGCA realizes most projects are collaborative, so percentages less than 100% are expected and acceptable.) Credits accumulate into a summary format via the chart included on the prior page.

Note: Once you complete the first form, linked above, you will be emailed the Project Form to complete your credit summary and individual project data.

Notes:

- Applicant need not draw final plans if the principal of a firm.
- ASGCA has no design plan standards, only that they are only fit for that project.
- In addition, plans, field design, shaping, and construction administration of your or your firm's designs qualify as participation in a representative project.
- Golf courses that opened and subsequently closed for business conditions may be submitted with documentation that they once existed.
- Designed and constructed golf holes, and any commissioned design credits may be used by only one applicant for ASGCA membership. It may be possible for two associates to have each designed certain holes in a renovation, but only one can obtain the "comprehensive master plan" credit.

PROPOSE ASGCA SPONSORS

List any ASGCA members who they know and are willing to be a sponsor. If you do not know of any, ASGCA will assist you in finding sponsors.

Three (3) ASGCA sponsors will evaluate the candidate during the application process. Each sponsor will review a different project, which must have at least some built golf holes (i.e., not merely a commissioned design). Sponsors 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 cannot sponsor more than 3 applicants in a calendar year.

Staff and the membership committee will review the Phase I application, assist the applicant in completing a full application, and determine if the applicant meets the numeric qualifications. They will recommend that the applicant either move to Phase II, be tabled until they attain more credits, or be deemed otherwise as not currently qualified for ASGCA membership.

If the applicant is recommended to proceed to Phase II, the applicant will complete the Phase II application using the standard 2024 Phase 2 fillable forms and electronic submissions, if possible.

Note: sponsor evaluation sections are included in the Project List form that you'll complete in step two of Phase I.

PHASE II

Phase II focuses on *qualitative* requirements for ASGCA and is intended to work together as an integrated approach to identify qualified individuals. Applicants approved to go to Phase II must:

SUBMIT PLANS, SPECIFICATION

For the projects submitted on the Phase I fillable forms, electronically submit (as applicable) your plans, specifications, field sketches, etc., in the space provided on the forms.

Please submit grading plans and/or green details for projects representative of the applicant's typical workflow. However, given the profession's diversity, there is no standard for plan submittals other than being fit for their purpose. Please submit a routing plan, preferably from a built project if available, and if not, a commissioned design routing plan or even a speculative or sales routing.

ASGCA SPONSORS EVALUATION

The second part of the Phase II evaluation is sponsor course reviews, as listed below. Sponsors must:

- Be previously familiar with you and your work or be willing to meet you and thoroughly evaluate one of your submitted projects. This should be on-site and in person with you, if possible. Sponsors are typically compensated for travel expenses by the applicant. If, for any reason, this isn't possible, the sponsor may use the applicant's plans, specs, pictures, and other sources to evaluate the project.
- The Phase I application forms will be available to sponsors.
- Review all information relevant to that project, including plans and specifications, and the Phase I application to their satisfaction to confirm the applicant's role and qualifications.
- Note that there are no "standards" to meet. The sponsor should evaluate their suitability and completeness for that project, and with the wide variety of projects and site conditions, we understand this varies from project to project.
- 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.
- Email the applicant a letter of recommendation to the Director of Outreach.

OBTAIN OWNER REFERENCE LETTERS

The applicant should obtain an owner reference letter for at least three (3) Client Reference Letters. These may be submitted by email to the Director of Outreach.

INTERVIEW

With the Phase II submittal complete and accepted, the applicant will be scheduled for an interview with the membership chairperson and others on the 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 via Zoom. The interview will focus on:

- A review of one of the projects in the applicant's submittal (must include built golf holes). The review will cover design concepts, technical proficiency, and design philosophy. The applicant may bring hard copies of documents to the interview if conducted in person.
- Semi-formal questions designed to illustrate your knowledge of the profession.
- Why you hope to become a member of ASGCA, and what you hope to contribute.
- Informal discussion on what you should expect from ASGCA.

POST INTERVIEW SCHEDULE

After the interview, the membership committee will vote on the applicant, after which they will:

- Send the committee recommendation, whether positive, negative, or tabled for more information, to the Board of Governors, who ultimately decide on all membership issues.
 - Alert applicant of the Board of Governors decision. If positive, provide the necessary support to start membership, including General Information About ASGCA, important dates, etc., Access Code to Members Only Section of the ASGCA website, and assigning, if desired pairing you with an existing member.
- If elected to membership, there are no formal requirements for meeting attendance. Still, it is customary to attend the next ASGCA Annual Meeting following notification of acceptance unless the meeting is held outside the United States.

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

Our Annual Meeting is usually in autumn. If the applicant is accepted by July 31st of the application year, they will be eligible to attend the Annual Meeting. If the application is completed by December 1st, they will be eligible to attend the next annual Winter Meeting at the GCSAA show.

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 golf course architects.

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.