



ASGCA TARTAN PROGRAM APPLICATION

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Jeff Brauer, ASGCA Director of Outreach

📞 (817) 797-6396 📧 jeff@asgca.org



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INTRODUCTION

Thank you for your interest in ASGCA's Tartan Program. We believe you will find participating in ASGCA as a Tartan and, eventually, as a member, a great professional experience.

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 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 specific areas, including public/resort vs. private, new courses vs. renovations, modernization vs. restorations, infrastructure upgrades, and single year vs. phased renovations.

TARTAN PROGRAM DESCRIPTION AND PURPOSE

ASGCA's full membership is for established golf course architects with a design portfolio of at least five major golf course design projects. In 2020, the ASGCA expanded opportunities for emerging architects who are still building their portfolios 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.

The minimum requirements to join the Tartan Program are golf course architects with at least three (3) years in golf course architecture and at least 20 designed and built holes where they had design input, whether in the office or the field. (To attain regular membership, the applicant must achieve 100 individual hole design credits comprising at least 60 built golf holes and other credits for commissioned designs that have not yet been built. If you participate in the Tartan Program, you may earn up to 20 credits, easing your entry to full membership. The system is described later in this document.

The Tartan applicant will use a similar form to applying for regular membership, but with fewer credits required. It will be maintained and updated by ASGCA staff every year and will eventually be a significant part of your full ASGCA membership application.

¹ Merriam-Webster

TARTAN PROGRAM PARTICIPANT BENEFITS

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. In addition, Tartans can take part in most ASGCA activities, including attendance at ASGCA meetings and events:

- **Annual Meeting** – Attendance at the Annual Meeting. 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 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 ASGCA membership:

Camaraderie –

Interacting and discussing golf course architecture with like-minded 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 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 –

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 played at the 2023 ASGCA Annual Meeting

TARTAN PROGRAM QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

ASGCA Tartan participation 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 Phase I Tartan application forms:

- Currently active and primarily engaged in professional golf course architecture (i.e., has been compensated for services continuously for at least 3 years prior.)
- Practices the profession in a competent, responsible, and ethical manner. (see ASGCA's Code of Professional Ethics on page 13).
- 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 made design contributions to constructed golf course design projects under a recognized golf course architect (whether an ASGCA member or not), such that:
 - That employer endorses the candidate for Tartan participation and affirms that the applicant has contributed to design projects under their direction, with some authority to make or modify the design.
 - Is working to learn all aspects of golf course architecture and is projected to continue in the field, with a reasonable chance of attaining regular membership within 10 years.
 - Has/is learning most of the areas typical to golf course design projects, even if the applicant typically collaborates on many tasks on any one project. (*ASGCA realizes the collaborative nature of most projects and doesn't expect 100% of design-related tasks on individual submitted projects.*)
 - Has at least 20 credits under the current membership credit system for regular membership, as described in the application section below. One (1) individual credit can be obtained for individual new holes, fully redesigned holes from tee to green, the design of a practice range, or for a short game area and putting green. Partially redesigned holes receive 0.5 credits. Applicants can also attain credits for other commissioned design tasks for canceled and unbuilt projects.

See the chart on PAGE 8 for more specifics. It is a sample of the digital online forms and details the credits for new, totally rebuilt, partially rebuilt hotels, and other potential credits.

Notes:

- Applicant need not draw final plans if a principal of a firm.
- Field design, shaping, and construction administration of your or other firm's designs qualifies as participation in a representative project.
- ASGCA does not have any standards regarding design plans, only that they are fit for that project. 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.
- Plans, field design, shaping, and construction administration of your or your firm's designs qualify as participation in a project.
- Golf courses that opened and subsequently closed for business conditions are eligible with documentation that they once existed.
- Only one applicant may use credits for each built-hole credit for any ASGCA membership. It may be possible for two associates to have each designed certain holes in a renovation. Still, only one can obtain the "comprehensive master plan" credit, even if it was a collaborative effort.



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

TARTAN PROJECT HISTORY FORM

ASGCA Tartan Program Project History Form			
Project Submission Number 04			
Project Name:			
Location:			
Contact:			
Project Website:			
Applicant Website:			
Date of Substantial Completion:			
Project Type: (Highlight One) (New) (Total Reno or Restoration) (Partial Renovation) (Master Plan) (Unbuilt)			
Implementation (Highlight one) (Design Bid or Negotiate) (Design Build) (Design Build (Contractor Prime)) (Design Build (Owner Prime))			
Applicants Need 20 Credits to Numerically Qualify for Regular Membership			
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, <i>some but not all design components redesigned</i>		0.5	0
Commissioned Design Credits^ <i>A maximum of 20 Commissioned Design Credits May Count to Membership</i>			
Total Project Design Credits (Per Project)			
Comprehensive 18 Hole Master Plans* (Including budgets, hole design, implementation planning)		3	0
9-18 Hole C.D. Package (Unbuilt Projects, either New Course or Total Renovation) **		3	0
Total Concept 9-18 Hole Design Credits for Unbuilt Projects (Per Project)			
9-18 Hole Routing & Preliminary Concepts for New Course		2	0
9-18 Hole Full Renovation Concepts		2	0
Partial Concept Plans (<9 Holes) Design Credits for Unbuilt Projects (Per Project)			
<9 Holes Routing and Preliminary Concepts for New Course		1	0
<9 Holes / Partial / Targeted Renovation Concepts		1	0
Total Project Credits			
			0
Notes:			
*Credits Apply <u>In Addition</u> to Built Holes On <u>Renovations</u> .			
Comprehensive Master Plans should include hole concept designs, budgets, and implementation Plans			
** If or When Built, Credits Removed in Favor of Built Hole Credits.			
Plans must be complete at least through at least <u>Construction Documents</u>			
Estimated Involvement			
Applicant's Self Assessment of Project Participation By Phase in Approximate Percent			
			Self
Environmental			%
Analysis			%
Design Concepts			%
Design Development			%
Construction Documents			%
Bid and Contracts			%
Field Observation			%
Project Management or Shaping			%

TARTAN SPONSOR FORM

ASGCA 2024 Membership Sponsor Evaluation (Project 01)		
	Yes	No
Confirm General Agreement With Project Summary Above		
<i>Note: If No, Explain in Recommendation Letter</i>		
Genrally Confirm Estimated Project Involvement (Use Sponsor Column Above)		
<i>Note: Most offices use collaborative process. We don't expect 100% involvement in all areas</i>		
Assess Applicant's Design Knowledge		
Project Review	Yes	No
Past Knowledge		
On-site		
Phone & Web		
Plans*	Yes	No
Appropriate for Project Type? (Y) or (N)		
Complete/Competent? (Y) or (N)		
Specs*	Yes	No
Appropriate for Project Type? (Y) or (N)		
Complete/Competent? (Y) or (N)		
Design Understanding / Philosophy Competently Addresses :	Yes	No
Playability, Aesthetics, Maintenance		
Strategy / Design Concepts		
Safety - On Course		
Safety - Off Course		
Environmental Issues		
Client Assessment (Optional, Staff Can Contact)	Yes	No
Did You Contact Client? (Y) or (N)		
Client Response was positive? (Y) or (N)		
Client Confirms Major Role? (Y) or (N)		
Client Confirms Professional Behavior Y / N		
*Please note that there are no "ASGCA Standards" for plans and specifications.		
Plan details can will vary depending upon construction implementation (i.e., design-build) and project scope		
Sponsor should evaluate in the context of "do the plans and specifications fulfill the needs of the project?"		

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 ten (10) 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.

The ASGCA Membership Committee and staff will review the Tartan participants' golf course architecture workload annually to confirm their progress toward ASGCA regular membership. They will jointly evaluate the progress toward regular membership and, each year, decide to continue, terminate, or suspend the applicant's participation in the Tartan Program. However, participants who are working and making progress toward the full membership qualifications may petition the membership committee for an extra year of participation.

When the Tartan participant qualifies for regular membership, that participant shall fill out the Regular Membership fillable forms to apply. Credits obtained in the Tartan Application process will be valid for regular membership. Tartan participants may use their original sponsors with their permission, but they must find a third sponsor to attain regular membership.

APPLICATION PROCESS

The Tartan application process is relatively quick and straightforward. 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 2024, Todd Schoeder) may also help the applicant. Then, complete the standard online application forms, supplying the information below, and email the form and list of projects to Jeff Brauer, jeff@asgca.org.

APPLICATION FORM

The applicant shall use the standard Phase I fillable Tartan application forms to apply, which include:

- Personal, educational, and work information and any potential ASGCA sponsors you will want to review and endorse your application.
- Information on their most important projects, listed from most recent to older projects and include:
 - Project Name, Location, and Type (new, total redesign, partial redesign)
 - The Owner, your employer, and your Title (if applicable)
 - The number of holes where you have participated in the design, whether new, full tee to green renovations or partial renovations, as summarized in the table above. All must have opened or been constructed through “substantial completion.” Courses that were completed and then closed are eligible.
 - Your approximate participation in each phase of the design process (which will be reviewed by the sponsors).
 - Please submit an example of 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, and if not, an example of a commissioned design routing plan or even a speculative or sales routing.
 - You can upload representative plans for the projects submitted.

Note: Click [here](#) to access the General Applicant Form (Form 1 of 2). After that form is completed, you will be emailed the second forms –including the sponsor evaluation section—within 2-3 business days.

ASGCA SPONSORS

In the first form of your application, you will be asked to provide two (2) names of ASGCA Members who you know are willing to be a sponsor. If you do not know of any, ASGCA will assist in finding sponsors.

The ASGCA sponsors will further evaluate the candidate during the application process. Each sponsor will review a different project with at least some built golf holes. 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.

The sponsors must:

- Be previously familiar with you and your work or be willing to evaluate one of your submitted projects to their satisfaction, using the applicant's plans, specs, pictures, and other sources to assess the project and confirm the applicant's role and qualifications.
- Write a letter of recommendation for the applicant and share via email to the Director of Outreach at jeff@asgca.org.
- Fill out the Sponsors Evaluation form for one project, by checking the appropriate boxes.

ASGCA SPONSORS

Once the application has been completed 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 by Zoom. The interview will focus on:

- A review of one of the projects in the applicant's submittal must include some 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 do you hope to become a member of ASGCA, and what do 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 and:

- 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
 - Pairing you with an experienced member (probably one of your sponsors) as your guide to your first ASGCA events.
- If approved for Tartan participation:
 - There are no formal requirements for meeting attendance, but we encourage you to attend the next ASGCA Annual Meeting following your acceptance unless the meeting is held outside the United States.
 - The annual dues are \$750, plus a \$75 donation to the ASGCA Foundation.

Our Annual Meeting is usually in autumn. 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, suppose the application can be completed by December 1st of the application year, and the applicant has been accepted. In that case, they will be eligible to attend the next annual Winter Meeting at the GCSAA show.



Blue Mound Golf Club – A Raynor Golf Course
One of the courses played at the 2023 ASGCA Annual Meeting

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.