



2021 ABC Florida Gulf Coast Chapter  
Excellence in Construction® Awards  
Project Entry Requirements and Forms



**ABC Florida Gulf Coast invites your company to enter your best projects in our 2021 Excellence in Construction Awards.**

**NOTE:**

This document serves as a tool to help applicants gather and prepare data for the 2021 application. All 2021 applications must be submitted [electronically](#).

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## Program Overview

Your company has the opportunity to compete for honors in the construction industry's premier bi-annual awards program—the ABC Florida Gulf Coast Chapter Excellence in Construction Awards — these awards recognize the outstanding merit shop projects of the year. Use this document as a guide to enter your company's best project(s).

All winners will be recognized at the May 7, 2021 awards celebration in Tampa, FL (location TBD). The ceremony will feature a multimedia presentation highlighting the Eagle and Merit award winners. All winners will be recognized in Plans & Specs magazine, and news releases for Eagle Award winners will be distributed to the national construction-related media outlets.

## Entry Requirements

Each entry must follow the entry requirements outlined in this award application.

### ABC Membership

Only Florida Gulf Coast Chapter members are eligible to compete. If your project was completed by a joint venture and not all parties are ABC members, please email [lauragross@abcfllgulf.org](mailto:lauragross@abcfllgulf.org) for eligibility requirements.

### Safety Policy

A company that experiences a safety-related fatality of a direct employee in the United States within the current program year (Jan. 1, 2019 - Dec. 31, 2020) is **NOT** eligible for an Excellence in Construction Award. If a subsidiary is a direct ABC member versus part of a larger holding company member, then the subsidiary with a safety-related fatality is not eligible, but another subsidiary of the same holding company may be.

A company that experienced a safety-related fatality of a direct employee in the United States within two or three years of the current program year is required to provide additional information regarding action that has been taken following the fatality. (See Safety Requirements for additional details).

No project that involves prime, multi-prime or sub-trade contractors with a safety-related fatality is eligible to be considered for an award.

### Project Entry Deadlines

- **Completion of Project** – Projects must be completed (COO) by December 31, 2020
- **Intent to Compete Registration** – Projects must be registered online no later than Monday, February 1, 2021
- **Submission Deadline** – Entries must be completed online no later than Monday, March 15, 2021
- **Project Entry Fee** – Each project must be submitted with online payment, or a check, in the amount of \$400. Payment must be received on or before Friday, March 19, 2021 and is non-refundable. (*\$50 Intent to Compete Fee + \$350 Project Submission Fee*). Checks should be mailed to the chapter office.

### Mailing Address for Payment

ABC Florida Gulf Coast Chapter  
2008 North Himes Ave, Tampa, FL 33607

Specific questions may be directed to Laura Gross at [lauragross@abcfllgulf.org](mailto:lauragross@abcfllgulf.org) or by calling 813-879-8064.

## Overview of Awards

Awards may be presented in 50 categories. The 31 categories for General Contracting/Construction Management are outlined on page 10 of this document. The 19 categories for Specialty Contracting are outlined on page 11 of this document. For further descriptions of each category, please email [lauragross@abcflgulf.org](mailto:lauragross@abcflgulf.org) or call 813-879-8064.

### **General Contractor – Project of the Year**

One award will be presented to the most outstanding project submitted by a General Contractor.

### **Specialty Contractor – Project of the Year**

One award will be presented to the most outstanding project submitted by a Specialty Contractor.

### **Eagle Award**

A maximum of 50 first place Eagle Awards may be presented. Award winners will receive a specially designed eagle sculpture to signify construction's highest honor.

### **Merit Award**

Construction projects in each category will be eligible for a Merit Award. Award winners will receive a specially designed award.

## Requirements: Intent-to-Compete/Registration (5 points)

- ❖ Company
- ❖ Project title
- ❖ Project location (city, state if in the United States)
- ❖ Final contract amount (ABC will keep the information confidential, if required)
- ❖ Category
- ❖ Applicant name, job title, phone and email
- ❖ Submit non-refundable Intent to Compete submission fee: \$50 per entry

### **Read Each Section Carefully**

The panel of judges represents a cross section of construction industry experts, including owners, architects, engineers and other industry leaders. The competition is comparative, using a point system to assist in the comparisons. A project entry can earn a total possible score of 100 points. The different evaluative sections and their point values are listed below. Answers to questions should be clear and succinct, as directed; the quality of an entry's presentation will have a great impact on its opportunity to win.

### **Overall Presentation and Conformance to Entry Requirements**

Uploaded documents should be pleasing to the eye and legible. Points will be deducted for font that is too small to easily read, as well as grammatical/typographical errors.

## Requirements: Project Information

- ❖ Contractor name, principal, title, mailing address and phone
- ❖ Business ownership: women-owned/minority-owned/both/neither
- ❖ Primary award contact name, title, phone and email
- ❖ Is this project in the United States? Provide the project address.
- ❖ Final contract amount (indicate if this is confidential)
- ❖ Did any prime, multi-prime, or sub-trade contractor on this project have a safety-related fatality on this project? If yes, the project is not eligible.
- ❖ Did the applying member company have a safety-related fatality in the United States with the current program year (Jan. 1, 2019 - Dec. 31, 2020)? If yes, the company is not eligible.
- ❖ Architect firm, contact name, title and email
- ❖ Engineer firm, contact name, title and email
- ❖ General contractor firm, contact name, title and email (if the applicant is a subcontractor)
- ❖ Client/owner firm, contact name, title and email
- ❖ Starting date of construction
- ❖ Substantial completion date of construction
- ❖ Was this project completed by a joint venture? If yes, are all parties of the joint venture members of ABC? On a one-page document, outline the ownership percentage and responsibilities of each partner.
- ❖ Was this a design-build project, with design and construction services under one contract with a single point of responsibility?
- ❖ Was this a Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) project through the U.S. Green Building Council? If yes, indicate the status of the LEED certification and what level was achieved.
- ❖ Write a brief project description between 30 and 40 words highlighting the most impressive/unique aspects of the job. If the project is an Eagle Award recipient, the project description (subject to editing by ABC) will appear in the onsite event program.

## Requirements: Contracted Scope (10 points)

Ensuring legibility when selecting font design and size, provide a description (no more than one full page) of the scope for this project with the following information:

- Type of construction (i.e. Lump Sum, Time & Materials, Construction Management at Risk, Cost Plus, etc.)
- Size of project
- Contract value
- Duration of project
- Percentage of labor that is self-performed
- Any subcontracted work performed by fellow ABC members, suppliers or associates/industry professionals, if applicable.

Describe the opportunities you provided to the construction community to participate based on merit.

## Requirements: Project Narrative (30 points)

Ensuring legibility when selecting font design and size, provide a written narrative (no more than four pages\*) indicating why this project is special and why it qualifies for a national award. The focus of the narrative should be the construction (i.e. erection, installation, modification, grade footprint, etc.) of the project. Four pages are highly recommended and photos/images may be incorporated. Be sure to include the following items:

- Describe any innovative programs relating to quality control
- Describe any innovative programs relating to scheduling
- Describe any value analysis/engineering process used on the project
- Indicate any special obstacles you overcame in completing the project
- Describe any difficulties or extenuating circumstances encountered in completing the project
- Describe any innovative programs or methods relating to productivity (see bonus award section on page 7 of this application guide)

\*Projects entered in the Community/Public Service categories are allowed one additional page (for a total of five pages) dedicated to describing why the project qualifies for the category. This will be uploaded separately following the project narrative and should include a detailed description of the resources your company donated.

## Requirements: Photographs (8 points)

Submit up to 10 high-quality photographs in jpg format only. It is recommended to include photos that are relevant to the challenges and solutions outlined in the narrative. To obtain maximum points, all projects should include “in progress” photos in addition to the completed project. Restoration and Renovation projects should also include “before and after” images.

- Single jpg files may include up to two photographs, but no more than four files should include split images.
- Provide a descriptive caption for each file in the text box provided, but keep the photograph free of any labels, captions and borders/framing.
- Ensure the photographs are free of any safety violations.
- Ten photographs are strongly recommended. Files should be a minimum of 300 DPI resolution and in jpg format. No PDFs are allowed.

Occasionally, entrants have asked that certain photos not be used in programs or on public sites, due to certain sensitivities, such as the exterior layout of an embassy. Indicate if any of the photos submitted above meet this condition and specify which ones must remain private.

If any photos being submitted were taken by a third-party photographer, the photographer’s written authorization to use the photos is required. For compliance purposes, you must upload a copy of the signed licensing agreement which can be obtained by emailing [lauragross@abcfllgulf.org](mailto:lauragross@abcfllgulf.org)

## Requirements: Safety (31 points)

A company that experiences a safety-related fatality of a direct employee in the United States within the current program year (Jan. 1, 2019 - Dec. 31, 2020) is **NOT** eligible for an Excellence in Construction Award. If a subsidiary is a direct ABC member versus part of a larger holding company member, then the subsidiary with a safety-related fatality is not eligible, but another subsidiary of the same holding company may be.

A company that experienced a safety-related fatality of a direct employee in the United States within two or three years of the current program year is required to provide additional information regarding action that has been taken following the fatality (details on the next page).

No project that involves a prime, multi-prime, subcontractor or any trade-related work (regardless of the type of contract) with a safety-related fatality is eligible for an Excellence in Construction Award.

If there is a question regarding these application requirements, the applicant should request clarification from ABC Florida Gulf Coast Chapter by emailing [lauragross@abcfllgulf.org](mailto:lauragross@abcfllgulf.org)

## Requirements: Safety continued

- ❖ Did the applying company have a safety-related fatality within the current program year (Jan. 1, 2019 - Dec. 31, 2020)? If yes, your company is not eligible.
- ❖ Did your company have a safety-related fatality within two or three years of the current program year (Jan. 1, 2017 - Dec. 31, 2020)? If yes, answer the questions below.
  - What was the violation type as determined by OSHA (i.e. Willful, Serious, Repeated, Other-than-Serious)?
  - Date and location of incident
  - Were there any fines, citations or penalties issued? If so, by whom (i.e. OSHA, Police, Department of Transportation, etc.)?
  - Provide a written report up to five pages that details the following:
    - A full account of the incident and the investigation
    - What corrective actions were taken immediately?
    - What corrective actions were taken culturally?
    - How was accountability addressed?
    - What procedural changes were made?
    - Was there an overall evaluation of the company safety policies, and if so, what changes were made?
    - If the fatality occurred three years prior to this program year (Jan. 1, 2016 - Dec. 31, 2018), provide details as to how your company has implemented the changes discussed above and how it has affected the overall safety performance.
- ❖ Did this project have a safety-related fatality? If yes, this project is not eligible.
- ❖ Include copies of the OSHA Form 300 and OSHA Form 300A for your company (project specific, if available) for the year(s) the project was under construction, **with personal information redacted**. If omitted, your company is not eligible.
- ❖ Has your company signed the Construction Coalition for a Drug- and Alcohol-Free Workplace's pledge at [drugfreeconstruction.org](http://drugfreeconstruction.org)? If no, your company is not eligible.
- ❖ Does your company have a written substance abuse policy? If yes, provide a copy of the table of contents and explain how it was implemented on the project.
- ❖ Does your company have a written Safety and Health Policy Manual? If yes, include its table of contents or provide a one-page summary. If no, your company is not eligible.
- ❖ Was a site-specific Safety and Health Policy Manual developed for this project? If yes, include its table of contents or provide a one-page summary.
- ❖ Provide the project's organizational chart identifying the person responsible for safety.
- ❖ Does your company conduct a new employee safety orientation? If yes, include a copy of the agenda.
- ❖ Were toolbox safety meetings held with employees? If yes, were these meetings documented and what was the frequency of meetings? Include a one-page summary or an example up to two pages.
- ❖ Did your company regularly establish pre-task safety planning prior to beginning work on this project? If yes, provide at least one example.
- ❖ Did your company have a process in place to record near-miss cases on this project? If yes, provide supporting documentation of this process and how your company uses this information.
- ❖ Was specialized training conducted on this project? If yes, indicate types on a separate page.
- ❖ Provide additional information regarding any innovative safety and health programs used on this project or the company's overall safety program.
- ❖ Calculate your company's Total Recordable Incident Rate (TRIR) = Number of recordable accidents x 200,000 / total manhours for the project
  - Total manhours for all disciplines included in your contract on this project
  - Company NAICS and SIC codes
  - Number of OSHA-recordable accidents on this project
  - Number of OSHA job transfer or restriction cases on this project
  - Number of OSHA days away from work cases on this project

\*General contractors and construction managers also must include all specialty contractors' hours and recordables on this project.
- ❖ For general contractors or construction managers: Do you require accident reports from specialty contractors? If yes, provide information on the process.
- ❖ Provide the name, title, phone, email and signature for the person responsible for safety on this project and attesting to these accident rates.

## Requirements: References (10 points)

Include up to 10 letters of recommendation from third-parties involved with the project, such as the owner and design team. If the owner is unable to provide a letter of recommendation due to company policy, upload a letter from the owner on their letterhead stating they are unable to provide a reference (this letter will qualify for only five points). PDF files are preferred.

**General contractors** *must* submit letters from at least the owner (or the general contractor's prime contracting entity, if not the owner) and the architect. If submitting in an industrial category, general contractors must submit letters from at least the owner (or the general contractor's prime contracting entity).

**Specialty contractors** *must* submit a letter from at least the general contractor. If not working under a general contractor, specialty contractors must submit a letter from at least the owner. Second- and third-tier subcontractors must at least submit a letter from their prime contracting entity.

Letters will be assessed for their level of quality (content and position of author). In some cases, a single letter could earn the maximum number of points; however, additional letters are highly recommended.

## Opportunities: Supplemental Materials (2 points)

Provide any miscellaneous supporting materials such as diagrams and other graphics, media coverage, other awards and promotion. You may upload up to five single pages. The five pages may be in one file, or up to five separate files.

## Opportunities: Accredited Quality Contractor (AQC) (2 points)

If your company has achieved ABC's Accredited Quality Contractor (AQC) credential in the current program year, upload a PDF copy of the company certificate. The certificate must indicate the chapter that you are submitting your project through because AQC membership is chapter specific. If necessary, a copy of the certificate may be requested by emailing [aqc@abc.org](mailto:aqc@abc.org). Please note that requests will be processed in the order in which they are received; be sure to put your request in early.

The AQC credential is not required to submit for an Excellence in Construction award.

For more information about the AQC program, visit [abc.org/aqc](http://abc.org/aqc) or email [aqc@abc.org](mailto:aqc@abc.org).

## Opportunities: Safety Training Evaluation Process (STEP) (2 points)

If your company is a Safety Training Evaluation Process (STEP) participant, upload a PDF copy of the company certificate(s) from the current program year, as well as any year(s) the project was performed.

If your company does not have an electronic copy of your STEP certificate(s), contact [nicknowell@abcflgulf.org](mailto:nicknowell@abcflgulf.org). Please note that requests will be processed in the order in which they are received; be sure to put your request in early.

STEP participation is not required to submit a project for an Excellence in Construction Award.

For more information about STEP, visit [abc.org/step](http://abc.org/step) or email [step@abc.org](mailto:step@abc.org).

## Social Media & Entry Samples

### Social Media

ABC promotes EIC winners on social media (e.g. Facebook, LinkedIn, Instagram and Twitter). A photo from the entry is typically included, with the company name, project name and category. The projects are generally featured after the awards gala and throughout the program year. If your project is awarded, would you like for your company and project to be featured on ABC's social media accounts?

### Entry Sample Release

Members often request samples of EIC applications. In order to assist those applying for the first time in future years, we would like to have winning samples available. If your project is awarded, can ABC share your project narrative and/or contracted scope with future year applicants and on the EIC webpage?

If you indicated the use of innovative safety programs and your project was awarded, may these programs be included in a list of best practices posted on the EIC webpage?

## Project Entry Qualifications, Rights and Agreement

\*All applicants are required to sign off on the following releases.

### Property

All entries become the property of Associated Builders and Contractors Florida Gulf Coast Chapter (ABC).

### Entry Category Reassignment

ABC reserves the right to change an entry's original category if it determines that a project's opportunity to win will be enhanced with a different category. ABC also reserves the right to redistribute the contract volume levels within a category.

### Grant of Rights

The applicant hereby grants to ABC the following non-exclusive rights: the right to reproduce and distribute copies of the work throughout the year as part of the competition materials described above, including the right to reprint the work, or any part thereof, whenever necessary and to license the use of the work, or any part thereof, in any medium or form of communication; and the right to use the applicant's name, photographs and biography in connection with the work. The applicant reserves all rights not specifically granted herein.

### Safety Provision

No project that involves a prime, multi-prime, subcontractor or any trade-related work (regardless of the type of contract) with a safety-related fatality is eligible for an award.

### Warranty

The applicant warrants that the work is original, that its publication will not infringe on the rights of others, and that it has the full power to make this grant.

### Notification and News Releases

ABC Florida Gulf Coast Chapter Excellence in Construction Award winners will be notified within weeks of the March judging process. News releases will be held until after the awards ceremony takes place in May 2019 at the Hilton Hotel in Downtown Tampa. Until that time, the winners' information is embargoed. ABC will provide winners with a news release and photograph(s) within several weeks of the ceremony.

### Applicant Agreement

I have mailed a check for \$400, or made my payments online, payable to "ABC Florida Gulf Coast Chapter" in accordance with the entry fee requirements or submitted payment online and understand payment must be received no later than March 19, 2021, in order to be eligible for judging.

I hereby give permission to Associated Builders and Contractors Florida Gulf Coast Chapter (ABC) to use the photographs and any information submitted to the ABC Florida Gulf Coast Chapter Excellence in Construction Awards competition in ABC publication materials, including presentations and printed matter, as well as promotional materials and news releases.

## Project Award Category Form – General Contracting/Construction Management

You may select only ONE category indicating the dollar amount of the contract for the project.

**ABC reserves the right to change an entry's original category if it determines that a project's opportunity to win will be enhanced in a different category. ABC also reserves the right to redistribute the contract volume levels within a category.**

### **Mega-Projects**

All projects regardless of type  
More than \$100 million

### **Commercial**

Office buildings, banks, retail facilities, hotels and mixed-use  
Less than \$5 million  
\$5 to \$10 million  
\$10 to \$25 million  
\$25 to \$100 million

### **Community/Public Service**

Philanthropic projects that enhance the community, using substantial resources donated by the contractor  
All contract amounts up to \$100 million

### **Federal Government/Military**

All projects owned by the federal government, except for transportation infrastructure and utilities  
Less than \$10 million  
\$10 to \$100 million

### **Health Care**

Hospitals, assisted living, nursing homes and other licensed medical facilities  
Less than \$10 million  
\$10 to \$25 million  
\$25 to \$100 million

### **Historical Restoration/ Renovation**

Restoration of buildings registered as historical, or eligible to be registered as historical  
Less than \$25 million  
\$25 to \$100 million

### **Industrial**

Manufacturing plants and facilities, refineries and similar types of construction  
Less than \$5 million  
\$5 to \$15 million  
\$15 to \$25 million  
\$25 to \$100 million

### **Infrastructure: Heavy**

Streets, highways, parks, dams and bridges  
All contract amounts up to \$100 million

### **Institutional**

Projects owned by schools, churches and local governments, except for health care facilities  
Less than \$5 million  
\$5 to \$10 million  
\$10 to \$25 million  
\$25 to \$100 million

### **Pre-engineered Building**

Institutional, shopping centers, banks and manufacturing plants  
All contract amounts up to \$100 million

### **Public Works/Environmental**

Water treatment plants and sewage treatment plants  
All contract amounts up to \$100 million

### **Renovation**

Non-historical, existing buildings where more than 50 percent of the contracted dollar value was used for renovation or restoration  
Less than \$4 million  
\$4 to \$10 million  
\$10 to \$100 million

### **Residential**

Residential, including independent living retirement communities  
Single-family projects up to \$100 million  
Multifamily and condominium projects up to \$100 million

### **Other Construction**

Construction not specifically referred to in the prior categories (e.g. theme parks, zoos, skate parks, water parks and other unique types of projects)  
Less than \$2 million  
\$2 to \$100 million

## Project Award Category Form – Specialty Contracting

You may select only ONE category indicating the dollar amount of the contract for the project.

**ABC reserves the right to change an entry’s original category if it determines that a project’s opportunity to win will be enhanced by the change to the new category. ABC also reserves the right to redistribute the contract volume levels within a category.**

**Community/Public Service**

Philanthropic projects that enhance the community, using substantial resources donated by the contractor

All contract amounts

**Electrical**

All projects

More than \$10 million

**Electrical: Commercial**

Schools, hospitals, outdoor lighting, institutional, shopping centers

Less than \$2 million

\$2 to \$10 million

**Electrical: Industrial**

Manufacturing plants, processing plants, instrumentation and testing facilities involving motor control

Less than \$2 million

\$2 to \$10 million

**Mechanical**

All projects

More than \$10 million

**Mechanical: Commercial**

Schools, hospitals, institutional, shopping centers

Less than \$2 million

\$2 to \$10 million

**Mechanical: Industrial**

Manufacturing plants, processing plants and pneumatic controls

Less than \$10 million

**Exteriors**

Masonry, precast or stone

All contract amounts

All other exterior finishes

All contract amounts

**Interiors**

Acoustical, drywall, millwork or plaster

All contract amounts

All other interior finishes

All contract amounts

**Sitework/Landscape/**

**Hardscape**

Interior/exterior, landscaping and parking lots

All contract amounts

**Other Specialty Construction:**

**Commercial**

Commercial construction not specifically referred to in the prior categories

Less than \$10 million

More than \$10 million

**Other Specialty Construction:**

**Industrial**

Industrial construction not specifically referred to in the prior categories

Less than \$10 million

More than \$10 million

Specific questions may be directed to the ABC Florida Gulf Coast Chapter office by sending an email to [lauragross@abcflgulf.org](mailto:lauragross@abcflgulf.org)

Frequently asked questions and application tips are listed at <https://abcflgulf.org/business-development/excellence-in-construction/>