

2026

EXCELLENCE IN CONSTRUCTION (EIC) AWARDS PROJECT ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

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UPDATED 3/19/26

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

ABC Keystone invites you to enter your best projects in this year's Excellence in Construction Awards competition. Join the ranks of hundreds of Merit Shop construction companies recognized as the best in the construction industry.

Our annual Excellence in Construction Awards recognizes and celebrates outstanding projects built by ABC Keystone's members. The awards competition serves to raise the construction standards throughout the industry by honoring quality craftsmanship produced by merit shop contractors and their employees.

All award winners will be recognized at our November 5, 2026 awards celebration. The ceremony will feature a presentation and a printed program highlighting each award-winning project. Chapter winners are eligible to compete for the National Excellence in Construction Awards.

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

Each entry must follow the entry requirements outlined in this award application. Each project needs to be entered separately. There is no limit to the number of entries per member or in any one category. A project may be entered in more than one category. Clearly specify and remit payment for each project in each category entered.

- Only current members of ABC Keystone may enter.
- Any licensed general contractor, specialty contractor, or construction manager.
- Subcontractors acting as the general contractor on the project entered are also eligible.
- Joint ventures are eligible if one firm is an ABC member.
- Any company entering the trade category must have self-performed the job.
- No project that was subject to a requirement that contractors enter into an agreement with any labor union as a condition of performing work is eligible.
- Projects that won ABC awards in previous years are not eligible except in the case of substantial renovation or additions.

PROJECT SAFETY REQUIREMENT

No project with a safety-related fatality is eligible to be considered for an award.

COMPLETION DATE REQUIREMENT

Eligible projects must have been completed (e.g., Certificate of Occupancy issued) between **January 1, 2025 and December 31, 2025**.

IMPORTANT DATES

- **Wednesday, December 31, 2025** – Date by which construction of the submitted project must be completed.
- **Friday, May 8, 2026** – Phase I: Deadline to register your project (intent to submit).
- **Friday, June 26, 2026** – Phase II: Deadline to submit the final application and supplemental materials. Applicants will have until 4:00 p.m. EST to finalize all applications.
- **Thursday, November 5, 2026** – Awards Gala at Spooky Nook Sports.
- **Project Entry Fee** – Each project must be submitted with credit card payment or a check in the amount of \$345 made payable to ABC Keystone. **Payment must be received on or before Friday, June 26, 2026.** **This**

fee is non-refundable or transferable to a future submission. Be sure to view application criteria and eligibility prior to entering your submission.

AWARDS BANQUET

Winning project teams will be invited to a formal presentation of their awards at the ABC Keystone 2025 Excellence in Construction Awards Gala to be held on November 5, 2026 at Spooky Nook Sports. All winners will be highlighted in the awards program.

NATIONAL EXCELLENCE IN CONSTRUCTION AWARDS

ABC Keystone' Excellence in Construction award winning projects will be eligible to be entered in the ABC National Excellence in Construction competition.

JUDGING CRITERIA

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. Use the checklist at the end of this document to review your entry prior to submittal. Judges may require an onsite visit to better understand the scope and complexity of work completed. Please be sure to provide the most up-to-date contact information.

Overall Presentation and Conformance to Entry Requirements (5 points)

- Uploaded documents should be pleasing to the eye and legible. Points will be deducted for font that is too small to easily read.
- Points will be deducted for grammatical errors, spelling mistakes and other typographical errors.

Contracted Scope (10 points)

- Include up to one full page, ensuring legibility when selecting font design and size.
- Provide a description of your scope for this project including the following information:
 1. Type of construction
 2. Type of contract (i.e., Lump Sum, Time & Materials, Construction Management at Risk, Cost Plus, etc.)
 3. Size of project
 4. Contract value
 5. Duration of project
 6. Percentage of labor that is self-performed
 7. Any subcontracted work performed by fellow ABC members, suppliers, or associates/industry professionals, if applicable (visit www.findcontractors.com to find ABC membership status)
- Describe the opportunities you provided to the construction community to participate based on merit.

Project Narrative (30 points)

- Include up to four pages, ensuring legibility when selecting font design and size. Four pages are highly recommended, and photos/images may be incorporated.
- Provide a written narrative indicating why this project is special and why it qualifies for an award. The focus of the narrative should be the construction (i.e., erection, installation, modification, grade footprint, etc.) of the project. Be sure to include the following items:
 1. Describe any innovative programs relating to quality control.
 2. Describe any innovative programs relating to scheduling.

3. Describe any value analysis/engineering process used on the project.
 4. Indicate any special obstacles you overcame in completing the project.
 5. Describe any difficulties or extenuating circumstances encountered in completing the project.
 6. Describe any innovative programs or methods related to productivity.
- Projects entered into the Community/Public Service categories may include one additional page (for a total of five pages) dedicated to describing why the project qualifies for the category. Include a detailed description of the resources donated by your company.

Photographs (8 points)

- Submit up to ten high-quality photographs (jpg format only) of the project. Ten photos are highly recommended.
- To obtain maximum points, all projects should include “in progress” photos in addition to the completed project. Restoration and Renovation projects should include “before and after” images.
- It is recommended to include photos that are relevant to the challenges and solutions outlined in the narrative.
- Provide a short descriptive caption for each photograph in the text box provided, but keep the electronic images clear of any labels or captions.
- Single jpg files may include up to two photographs, but no more than four files should include split images.
- Ensure the photographs do not include any safety violations.
- The photographs must be a minimum of 300 dpi resolution.
- The photographs must not be submitted within a software program such as PowerPoint or Acrobat and must not include any text or framing that affects the photo.
- **Photographer’s Use Authorization:** If any photos being submitted were taken by a third-party photographer, the photographer’s written authorization to use the photos is required. There are two ways to comply: (1) the photographer can sign and date the licensing agreement included in this document, or (2) the applicant must submit a letter from the photographer giving ABC authorization to use the photos, which must follow the licensing agreement in this document. No changes are allowed to this document. The letter may be emailed to ahughes@abc-chesapeake.org.

Project Safety (31 points)

- 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.
- No company that experiences a safety-related fatality of a direct employee within the current program year (January 1, 2024-June 1, 2025) is eligible to submit a project. Additional details follow on the Safety Form.
- Complete the separate Project Safety section on pages 10 and 11 of this application.
- You must include your company’s OSHA Form 300A (project specific, if available) for the year(s) the project was under construction.
- You must also include your company’s OSHA Form 300 (project specific, if available) for the year(s) the project was under construction, **with personal information redacted.**
- Include the additional documents requested on the Project Safety Form.
- To be eligible to win an award, the company must sign the Drug- and Alcohol-Free pledge found at drugfreeconstruction.org.
- To be eligible to win an award, the company must have a written Safety and Health Policy Manual.

References (10 points)

- Include 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, include a letter from the owner on its letterhead stating it is unable to provide a reference (this letter will qualify for only 5 points).
- 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 working under a 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.
- Provide a short description in the text box provided of how the author of each letter was involved in the project.

Supplemental Materials (2 points)

- Up to five pages.
- Provide any miscellaneous supporting materials such as diagrams and other graphics, media coverage, awards, and promotion.

AQC Contractor (*optional*) (2 points)

- If your company is designated as an ABC Accredited Quality Contractor (AQC) member, include a copy of the company certificate. AQC status is not required to submit a project for an Excellence in Construction award. If necessary, a copy of the certificate may be requested by emailing abc.org/Accredited-Quality-Contractors-AQC-presented-by-The-Contractors-Plan
- The certificate must indicate the chapter through which you are submitting your project because AQC membership is chapter specific.
- For more information about AQC and to download an application, visit abc.org/Accredited-Quality-Contractors-AQC-presented-by-The-Contractors-Plan

STEP Participants (*optional*) (2 points)

- If your company is a STEP participant, include a copy of the company certificate from the year(s) the project was performed or from the current year. STEP participation is not required to submit a project for an Excellence in Construction award. If you do not have a copy of your certificate, contact your chapter, or download your PDF certificate from the STEP Dashboard.
- The certificate must indicate the chapter through which you are submitting your project because STEP participation is chapter specific.
- For more information about STEP and to download an application, visit abc.org/abcstep

****YOU MUST SUBMIT YOUR ENTRIES ONLINE – ONLY USE THIS DOCUMENT AS A REFERENCE****

PROJECT INFORMATION FORM

Provide the requested information exactly as it should appear in award-related materials and on the award. If you have any questions regarding this application, you may call the ABC Keystone at (717)653-8106 ext. 315 or email laura@abckeystone.org.

Contractor Information

Name of contractor firm: _____

Company principal and title: _____

Mailing address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Street address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Indicate if you are a women- or minority-owned business: WBE _____ MBE _____

Social Media

Facebook: _____ X (formerly Twitter): _____

LinkedIn: _____ YouTube: _____

Instagram: _____

Primary Contact Information

Contact name and title: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Project Information

Name of project: _____

Project location (city/state): _____ Final contract amount: \$ _____

Award entry category, including volume range: _____

Primary architect (official firm name and contact): _____

Primary engineer (official firm name and contact): _____

General contractor, if applicant is a specialty contractor (official firm name and contact): _____

Client/owner (official firm name and contact): _____

Starting date of construction: _____ Substantial completion date of construction: _____

Other Project Information

Was this a design-build project, with design and construction services under

one contract with a single point of responsibility? Yes No

Was this a Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) project through the U. S. Green Building Council? Yes No

If it was a LEED project, circle the status of the LEED certification below:

Under Review Certified as _____ Level Did not Submit

Entry Samples

Members often request samples of EIC applications. To assist those applying for the first time, we would like to have winning samples available.

Project Scope

ABC posts samples of scopes from winning projects online. If your project is awarded, are you willing to allow ABC to share the scope from this project as a sample on ABC's website?

Yes No

Project Narrative

ABC would also like to have samples of narratives available for future applicants. If your project is awarded, are you willing to allow ABC to share the narrative from this project as a sample on ABC's website?

Yes No

Innovative Safety Programs

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

Yes No

List of Project Categories

Modification or addition of categories and divisions may be made as needed to accommodate all entries. Any entrants affected will be contacted regarding any changes.

If you do not see a category that you feel applies to your project, contact Laura at ABC Keystone laura@abckeystone.org or 717-653-8106.

GENERAL CONTRACTOR CATEGORIES:

- **01B: Commercial**

Offices, retail stores, banks, hotels, fit-out of commercial tenant spaces*

- Under \$2 million
- \$2 to \$10 million
- \$10 to \$25 million
- \$25 to \$50 million
- Over \$50 million

- **01G: Industrial**

Warehouses, manufacturing facilities, etc.

- Under \$2 million
- \$2 to \$10 million
- \$10 to \$25 million
- Over \$25 million

- **01I: Institutional**

Schools, churches, theaters, facilities with "monumental" finishes.

- Under \$2 million
- \$2 to \$10 million
- \$10 to \$25 million
- \$25 to \$50 million
- Over \$50 million

- **01E: Healthcare**

Hospitals, facilities where patient care requires high levels of sanitary finishes and complex support services.

Heavy medical use.

- Under \$2 million
- \$2 to \$10 million
- \$10 to \$25 million
- Over \$25 million

PLEASE NOTE:

Each project may be entered in only ONE general contractor category.

The same project may be entered in various specialty contractor categories as appropriate, in addition to entry in a general contractor category.

- **01L: Renovation**

No more than 20% increase in facility square footage, and area of renovation exceeds area of addition; includes historical renovation.

- Under \$1 million
- \$1-\$5 million
- Over \$5 million

- **01M: Residential****

- New Single Family
- New Multi-Unit
- Renovation Single Family
- Renovation Multi-Unit

- **01J: Pre-Engineered Buildings**

Over 75% of facility area is pre-engineered.

- **LO-A8: Medical Renovation[^]**

Renovation of a medical facility, as described in A-4. No more than 20% increase in facility square footage, and area of renovation exceeds area of addition.

- Under \$1 million
- \$1-\$5 million
- Over \$5 million

- **01K: Public Works/Infrastructure**

Streets, parks, bridges, water or sewer treatment plants, where non-building work far exceeds building portion of the facility.

- **01C: Community/Public Service**

General Contractor projects, regardless of type, which enhanced the community and used partially or fully donated resources.

Entries should include information detailing the donated resources.

- **01N: Miscellaneous/Special Projects – Both GCs and SCs may enter this category**

Projects that do not qualify for any of the above; includes equipment specialties and types of construction not categorized.

*Doctor's offices, without extensive treatment facilities, should be entered in **Commercial**.

Elder care and retirement facilities should be entered in **Residential Multi-Unit category. However, if the largest portion is common area (recreation, dining, etc.), project should be entered in the **Commercial** category.

[^]Category will be listed under "Local Only" in the Intent to Submit Form.

List of Project Categories

Modification or addition of categories and divisions may be made as needed to accommodate all entries. Any entrants affected will be contacted regarding any changes.

If you do not see a category that you feel applies to your project, contact Laura at ABC Keystone laura@abckeystone.org or 717-653-8106.

SPECIALTY CONTRACTOR CATEGORIES:

- **LO-B1: Electrical**[^]

- Under \$250,000
- \$250,000 to \$1 million
- \$1-\$5 million
- Over \$5 million

- **LO-C1: HVAC**[^]

- Under \$250,000
- \$250,000 to \$1 million
- \$1-\$5 million
- Over \$5 million

- **LO-C2: Plumbing**[^]

- Under \$250,000
- \$250,000 to \$1 million
- \$1-\$5 million
- Over \$5 million

- **LO-C3: Fire Protection**[^]

- Under \$250,000
- Over \$250,000

- **LO-D1: Sitework**[^]

Sitework portion of building projects, not public works. Specification Div. 2

- Under \$250,000
- Over \$250,000

- **LO-E1: Concrete**[^]

Specification Div. 3

- Under \$250,000
- Over \$250,000

- **LO-F1: Masonry**[^]

Specification Div. 4

- Under \$250,000
- Over \$250,000

- **LO-G1: Metal Work**[^]

Structural steel, miscellaneous metal (stairs, railings, etc.). Specification Div. 5

- Under \$150,000
- Over \$150,000

- **LO-H1: Woodworking**[^]

Installation, finish carpentry. Specification Div. 6

- Under \$150,000
- Over \$150,000

- **LO-I1: Millwork**[^]

Fabrication

- Under \$150,000
- Over \$150,000

- **LO-J1: Moisture/Thermal Work**[^]

Insulation, roofing, exterior thermal finishes, siding. Includes architectural metals (roofing, trims, etc.). Specification Div. 7

- Under \$150,000
- Over \$150,000

- **LO-K1: Doors/Windows/Glasswork**[^]

Specification Div. 8

- Under \$150,000
- Over \$150,000

- **02I: Interior Finishes**

Ceilings, drywall, ceramics, flooring, non-painting/wallcoverings. Specification Div. 9

- Under \$150,000
- Over \$150,000

- **LO-M1: Painting & Wallcoverings**[^]

Specification Div. 9

- Under \$150,000
- Over \$150,000

- **LO-N1: Miscellaneous/Special Projects**[^] – *Both GCs and SCs may enter this category*

Projects that do not qualify for any of the above; includes equipment specialties and types of construction not categorized.

- **02A: Community/Public Service**[^]

Specialty Contractor projects, see description on page 4 for Category **01C**.

Specification Division definitions per the Construction Specifications Institute Format.

The same project may be entered in various specialty contractor categories as appropriate, in addition to entry in a general contractor category.

[^]Category will be listed under "Local Only" in the Intent to Submit Form.

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PROJECT SAFETY FORM

A company that experiences a safety-related fatality of a direct employee in the United States within the current program year (January 1, 2024-June 1, 2025) 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.

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.

- Did this project have a safety-related fatality? _____ Yes _____ No
If yes, this project is not eligible.
- Did the applying company have a safety-related fatality within the current _____ Yes _____ No program year (January 1, 2024-June 1, 2025)? If yes, your company 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? If no, your company is not eligible. _____ Yes _____ No
- Does your company have a written Safety and Health Policy Manual? _____ Yes _____ No
If yes, include its table of contents or provide a one-page summary. If no, your company is not eligible.
- Indicate the following details and then calculate the project’s Total Recordable Incidence Rate (TRIR)*:
 - Total man-hours 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: _____
 - Compute the project’s Total Recordable Incidence Rate:
TRIR = Number of recordable accidents x 200,000 / total man-hours for the project: _____

*General contractors and construction managers must also include all specialty contractors’ hours and recordables on this project.

- If you are a general contractor or construction manager, do you require accident reports from the specialty contractors?
If yes, provide information on the process. _____ Yes _____ No
- Were toolbox safety meetings held with employees? _____ Yes _____ No
Were these meetings documented? _____ Yes _____ No

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 _____ Yes _____ No

beginning work on this project? If yes, provide at least one example.

- Was a site-specific Safety and Health Policy Manual developed for this project? _____ Yes _____ No
If yes, include its table of contents or provide a one-page summary.
- Did your company have a process in place to record near-miss cases on this project? _____ Yes _____ No
If yes, provide supporting documentation of this process and how your company uses this information.
- Does your company have a written substance abuse policy? _____ Yes _____ No
If yes, provide a copy of the table of contents and explain how it is implemented on the project.
- Was specialized training conducted on this project? _____ Yes _____ No
If yes, indicate types on a separate page.
- Does your company conduct a new employee safety orientation? _____ Yes _____ No
If yes, include a copy of the agenda.
- Provide the project's organizational chart identifying the person responsible for safety.
- Additional information regarding any innovative safety and health programs used on this project or the company's overall safety program may be included.

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PROJECT ENTRY QUALIFICATIONS, RIGHTS AND AGREEMENT

PROPERTY

All entries become the property of Associated Builders and Contractors Keystone Chapter. ABC will retain the applicant's entry materials.

ENTRY CATEGORY REASSIGNMENT

ABC Keystone 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.

PHOTOGRAPHS

Photographs submitted with the application have been approved by the photographer to be used by ABC. If the submitted photographs were taken by a third-party photographer a signature is needed below to reprint the photographs without limitations.

License to Use: The undersigned hereby grants Associated Builders and Contractors ("ABC") a non-exclusive license regarding my photographs submitted by applicant in support of its entry in the ABC Keystone Excellence in Construction Awards competition ("Competition"). This license grants ABC an unlimited right to use, reproduce, crop, resize, publicly display, distribute, and transmit electronically including on the internet, my photographs in connection with the Competition including but not limited to the promotion of the Competition and the announcement and promotion of any awards, without payment of any royalty or license or other fee by or from ABC Keystone or applicant or agent or other representative of ABC or applicant.

GRANT OF RIGHTS

The applicant hereby grants to ABC Keystone the following non-exclusive rights: the right to reproduce, distribute and sell copies of the work throughout the year as part of the course 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 with a safety-related fatality is eligible to receive consideration 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.

EIC ENTRY CHECKLIST

Prior to submitting your entry to ABC Keystone, complete the checklist below to be sure you have included all required elements.

- Project Information Form**
- Project Award Category Form**
- Contracted Scope**
- Project Narrative**
- Up to 10 Photographs**
- Project Safety**
 - Include the **Project Safety Form**.
 - Include your OSHA Form 300A.
 - Include your OSHA form 300, with personal information redacted.
 - Including the following, if applicable:
 - A one-page summary of, or the table of contents of, the company's Safety and Health Policy Manual
 - A one-page summary of, or the table of contents of, a site-specific Safety and Health Policy Manual
 - A one-page summary or an example of toolbox safety meetings (up to two-pages)
 - Explanation of specialized training
 - Information on the process of collecting accident reports from specialty contractors
 - Project's organizational chart identifying the person responsible for safety
 - A copy of the table of contents of the company's substance abuse policy
- Reference Letters**
- Supplemental Materials**
- Option Materials**
 - AQC Certificate (current year)
 - STEP Certificate (year the project construction was performed)
- Social Media & Entry Samples**
- Project Entry Qualifications, Rights and Agreement Form**

ENTRY FEE

Companies will be invoiced for each Intent to Submit form that it submitted via the portal. The entry fee for each submission is \$345. ABC Keystone will send an invoice for all Intent to Submit forms you submit. If you need to withdraw a project, please let us know ASAP. Payment must be received by Friday, June 26, 2026 at 4PM to be considered for judging.