

GUIDELINES FOR THE TRAINEE (2016-2017 Revision)

[based on accredited judges' activity from Jun 2015-May 2016]

The Houston Judging Center's (HJC) goal is to provide the broadest possible experience for its judging trainees. The following recommendations outline the usual activities and give what the Center feels are reasonable targets for participation and performance based on the yearly averages of the accredited judges.

Every six months, trainees are evaluated both quantitatively and qualitatively: quantitatively through scores and attendance and qualitatively on overall performance, knowledge, attitude and commitment.

The quantitative targets assure that the trainee has adequate exposure to fundamental activities in order to gain comprehensive judging experience both in-center and out-of-center. The benefits are seeing a lot of plants, interfacing with and learning from other judges and growers. The qualitative objectives listed below include a number of subjective details such as knowledge, performance in training activities, interactions with other students and judges, general attitude and commitment to providing AOS judging service.

To be admitted to the judges' training program the trainee will be expected to satisfy the basic expectations in the *AOS Handbook on Judging and Exhibition* which require that the trainee

- be a member in good standing of the AOS
- subscribe to the *Orchids Plus*
- possess the current edition of the Handbook on Judging and Exhibition incorporated in *Orchids Plus*
- participate in eight judgments in the assigned judging area each year; four of which must be at the monthly judging sessions
- attend each biannual business meeting of the judging center committee
- participate in the training sessions scheduled by the training coordinator

QUANTITATIVE RECOMMENDATIONS

In order to derive the greatest benefit of its training program, the HJC additionally recommends trainees fulfill the minimum activities listed below. Notations in red denote the current average (revised annually) for the accredited judges in the center.

The trainee should:

1. participate in 17 judgments a year. [Acc'd judges' avg. = 17]
2. attend at least eight (8) judgments at the regular monthly sessions at the judging center per year. [Acc'd judges' avg. = 10]
3. attend one (1) regional (SWROGA) or other major show judging each year. [Acc'd judges' avg. = 1]
4. attend at least four (4) judging center area show judgments each year. [Acc'd judges' avg. = 5]
5. attend at least one (1) out-of-area judging per year [acc'd judges' avg. = 2] and be prepared to give a report as directed by the training coordinator.
6. attend two (2) approved seminars/workshops per year. [Acc'd judges' avg. = 2]
7. attend at least eight (8) training sessions at the regular monthly meetings at the judging center per year.
8. complete all work assigned by the training coordinator in a timely manner.
9. have at least 50% of scores within 2 points of the actual score.
10. prepare and deliver one or two short (15 minute) presentations and one major (30-40 minutes) presentation during the three years in grade as directed by the training coordinator, the latter to be during the third year in grade.

Additional Expectations for Associate Judges

It is assumed that consideration for elevation to accredited status reflects that points 1-8 above have been satisfactorily completed by the associate judge. These targets will continue during the associate period. Additionally, the associate judge should

1. take on further responsibilities including serving as team captain when requested, giving society presentations, assuming activities in helping to run the center, etc.
2. have at least 80% of scores within 2 points of the actual score.
3. prepare and deliver one or two short (15 minute) presentations and one major (30-40 minutes) presentation during the three years in grade as directed by the training coordinator. The major presentation is expected to be more in depth than that required of students.

QUALITATIVE

While the goals given above are intended to give the candidate judging and research experience, there are many other facets to being a well-rounded judge that are considered during the elevation discussions. The Handbook details these qualitative attributes. Some of these are listed below.

- Familiarity with the Big Picture
 - How AOS and the judging system work
 - Working knowledge of the Handbook on Judging and Exhibition and concurrency with updates
 - Various forms used in the judging process
- Participation
 - Be actively involved in the operations of the judging center
 - Be active in your local society
 - Give society presentations (either invited or offered)
 - Exhibit in shows either individually or as part of a group
- Courtesy
 - Respond to judging invitations promptly
 - Promptness at all judging functions
 - Show respect and courtesy toward fellow judges on the show floor and at the judging table
- Acquisition of knowledge
 - Reading, making observations, asking questions, seeking constructive criticism
 - Interaction with advisors and others
- Demeanor
 - Proper dress and grooming
 - Attentiveness when judging
 - Ethical behavior
 - Awareness of actions as they relate to public perception
 - Respect opinions of fellow judges
 - Other considerations covered by the Handbook Section on Conduct of Judges
- Commitment
 - As stated in its mission, the AOS Judging System provides a process for evaluating orchids as a service to its members and affiliated societies at AOS sanctioned shows, AOS judging centers, and other AOS sanctioned events. As an AOS judge you accept this commitment of service to the AOS.