

## **QUALIFICATIONS AND PROCEDURE TO BECOME AN APPRENTICE ROSE JUDGE**

Any ARS member who desires to become an Apprentice Horticulture Judge must first complete an accredited judging school and pass both the written and practical exams. The prospective applicant may take the examination at any District or area school; he or she need not be a member of the District in which the school is held. If a prospective applicant is not successful in passing both the written and practical exams, the member may not reapply until the next calendar year.

The prospective Apprentice Judge must submit an "Application for Apprentice Rose Judge Certification" to the chairman of the judging school he or she plans to attend, no later than the end of the judging school. However, prospective Apprentice Judges are encouraged to notify the chairman of the judging school that they plan to attend and submit their applications well in advance of the date of the school so the chairman can determine how many candidates to expect and, if necessary, verify their qualifications. Applications are available from the District Chairmen of Horticulture Judges and from the National Chairman of Horticulture Judges. At the close of the judging school, the chairman of the school must submit the applications and the application fees to ARS headquarters along with the examination papers.

To be certified as an Apprentice Rose Judge, the applicant must:

1. Have completed an accredited judging school and passed both the written and practical exams.
2. Have personally grown garden roses or been involved in their culture for five years.
3. Have been a member of the American Rose Society for at least thirty-six months, including the twelve months immediately preceding becoming an Apprentice Rose Judge.
4. Have exhibited in the horticulture section of at least a total of five ARS accredited rose shows over a period of at least three years. The applicant should have won at least five horticulture blue ribbons and at two ARS horticulture certificates or equivalent awards.
5. Have worked in at least three rose shows, either as a clerk or in some other capacity, such as show chairman or clerks' chairman, that would familiarize the applicant with proper show procedures.
6. Pay the applicant fee set by the American Rose Society.

In addition, an applicant is expected to:

1. Be a person of high integrity who is able to subjugate all personal likes, dislikes and biases.
2. Be diplomatic, constructive, definite in adhering to rules and

- passing judgment.
3. Be observant and careful in all details.
  4. Be able to substantiate decisions with concrete and specific reasons.
  5. Know the characteristics and range of variability of the varieties of roses commonly exhibited in his or her area.
  6. Know and follow ARS show rules, ARS standards of judging, and local show rules, unless the local show rules are in conflict with the ARS rules and standards.

### **Apprentice Judging**

Once an applicant has met all the above qualifications and successfully completed a judging school, they become an Apprentice Judge. As such, the apprentice is required to judge at least five shows in a three-year period and receive favorable evaluations from the Accredited Judges they judged with. Once this is successfully accomplished, the Apprentice may apply to the National Chairman of Judges to become an Accredited Judge.

## **TRAINING AND EVALUATING APPRENTICE JUDGES**

### **Working with Apprentice Judges**

The apprenticeship of judges is the foundation for their judging career. It is important that the Accredited Judges realize this and do what they can to be instructive when judging with an Apprentice. Do not treat the Apprentice as if they are only observers, include them in the judging process. Occasionally, the Accredited Judges should step back and let the Apprentice judge the class while explaining their decisions. The Accredited Judges should discuss these decisions in a positive and constructive manner. While it is impossible to allow this in every class without delaying the judging process unduly, it should be done in the different classes included in the judging assignment. Let the Apprentice express their opinion and discuss judging decisions throughout the judging process. As judges, we have an obligation to encourage excellence in judging by doing what we can to train our Apprentice Judges.

### **Evaluating the Apprentice Judge**

It is the responsibility of the Accredited Judge to send an Apprentice's evaluation form as soon after the judging as possible. At that time, the experience and impressions are fresh in the Accredited Judge's mind. It is also courtesy to the Apprentice to expedite the form and not hold up his/her accreditation. Be honest in your evaluation, fully explaining all the Apprentice's judicial strengths and/or weaknesses. The Accredited Judge who is kind and gives an unearned favorable report does a disservice

to the American Rose Society, the exhibitors and the societies that avail themselves of that Apprentice's judging services in the future. It will not harm the Apprentice to serve in that capacity for one or more extra shows. The more he/she judges, the better he/she will learn the art of judging. When completing the evaluation form, take into consideration which show this represents for the Apprentice. More latitude should be given if it is the Apprentice's first judging experience. On the other hand, if this is the fourth or fifth judging assignment for the Apprentice, the Accredited Judge should expect more at this point.

## **RESPONSIBILITIES OF ACCREDITED JUDGES**

### **Audit Requirements**

A judge must continue his/her membership in the American Rose Society and must accumulate four hours of seminar/audit credit at approved audits or schools every four years once they become officially accredited. Judges will receive credit of two hours for attendance at a National Judges Seminar. The District Chairman of Judges will keep all Accredited Judges of the district informed as to current requirements to maintain their judging status.

### **Teaching Judging Schools and Seminars**

One of our responsibilities as Accredited Judges is to be willing to teach at a judging school or seminar. This is an opportunity to review the *Guidelines and Rules for Judging Roses* as preparation for our teaching assignment. Be sure that you are using the most recent edition and know any new changes that affect the section you are teaching. Be sure to advise to those taking the test that the newest changes may not be reflected in the written test. All judges that act as instructors at a judging school or seminar are given audit credit.

### **Keeping Current**

Rose judging occasionally changes with the times. New guideline pages are then issued by ARS that reflect these changes. Be sure to keep current and keep your judging manual updated. Changes are published in the ARS magazine, keep a copy of this in your judges manual until the updated pages are available. Your District Chairman of Judges should make every effort to keep all judges of the district up-to-date on changes.

### **Exhibiting**

Judges are strongly urged to exhibit. This means more than just entering the judge's class in the shows you judge. Your local show provides an opportunity to keep your exhibiting skills sharpened and participate in the

exhibiting experience. A judge should never exhibit in a show which they are judging, except for special classes for judges judging the show.

### **Programs for Exhibitors**

As judges, we have a responsibility to teach by giving programs on exhibiting to local societies. This provides an opportunity to enhance the quality of rose shows by providing information on what the judges look for in judging roses. It is most helpful to aspiring exhibitors when a judge explains the prime elements of judging. It is also a way to spread information on new changes to the judging program.