



2009 Gold Circle Award Competition Eligibility and Submission Requirements

Don't Miss Your Chance to Walk the Red Carpet

Similar to other national awards programs, the Gold Circle Awards competition abides by a set of eligibility and submission requirements. Please familiarize yourself with the GCA requirements to ensure that your entry is complete and that your organization is eligible for entry. Ineligible organization as well as incomplete or improperly completed entries will be disqualified from competition. ASAE & The Center will retain all GCA competition entries - they will not be returned to the submitter.

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

1. The GCA competition is open to all US-based, non-profit organizations or associations with a 501(c) tax designation.
2. Both members and non-members of ASAE & The Center may submit entries.
3. GCAs are awarded in the name of the submitting organization.
4. GCAs cannot be awarded to industry partners, consultants or associate members, as these for-profit entities* are ineligible. (*This includes public relations agencies, marketing firms and other similar consultants.)
5. Organizations/Associations that meet the eligibility requirements can submit programs and products created by an outside vendor if the association staff has had the majority of responsibility for executing the program.
6. The submitter listed as the main contact on the entry form must be employed by the organization or association submitting the entry.
7. All GCA trophies will be inscribed with the name of the organization or association the communication was produced for, not to individuals employed by said organizations or associations who created the communication.
8. Employees and staff of applicants to the GCA competition may not serve as a GCA judge for categories their organization is entering.
9. Association communications completed and distributed between January 1, 2008, and December 31, 2008, are eligible for the 2009 CGA competition.

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SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

1. All 2009 GCA entries must be received (*not postmarked*) by 5:00pm EST at the ASAE & The Center offices by the deadline - **Tuesday, March 31, 2009**.
2. Materials created by vendors and/or consultants must be submitted in the name of their client organization or association. (For example, if a consulting firm ABC Consulting is submitting materials created for XYZ Association, the entry must be submitted under the name of XYZ Association) Vendors must notify their client associations about the submission. If selected as GCA winner the award will be presented in the name of the association.
3. All entry forms must be completed online and submitted by the deadline. **Please visit www.asaecenter.org/goldcircle to fill out an electronic entry form online.** Entry fee payment must also be received in order for the entry to be considered complete All entries must be accompanied by a paid entry fee. Entry fees for ASAE & The Center members is \$100 for each entry. The fee for non-members is \$125 per entry. There are no discount entry fees for multiple entries (see details below for credit card and check payments for entry fees).
4. Categories that require printed samples of submission materials must be received (*not postmarked*) by 5:00pm EST at the ASAE & The Center offices by the deadline listed.
5. Late entries and entries missing any required payment and/or samples by the deadlines will be disqualified from the competition. .
6. Multiple entries may be submitted by an organization or association in one or more categories, provided each entry is submitted on a separate entry form and includes the additional entry fee and any required samples.
7. All entry forms must indicate the 2008 overall operating budget for the **entire submitting organization or association**, *not* just for the communications program or initiative under which the entry is being submitted.
8. All entries will be grouped and subsequently judged within either Division A (organizations or associations with an overall operating budget of \$2 million or less) or Division B (organizations or associations with an overall operating budget greater than \$2 million) for each GCA category in which they are submitted. GCA judges can select one GCA winner from each Division. GCA judges may choose not to award a GCA in any given category or Division if the entries fail to meet GCA judging criteria and standards for communications excellence.

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SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS *(continued)*

9. Entry samples must be submitted in original format presented to targeted audience; for categories that require printed materials, six sets of the required printed materials for that category must be provided. (So if your magazine is transmitted to your members as a PDF, you can submit it to the contest as a PDF, but if you mail hard copies of your magazine to your members, you must submit hard copies with your entry.)
10. In rare cases, GCA judges may award an Honorable Mention to an entry. Honorable Mentions are in no way to be construed as a GCA winner.
11. Each GCA entry must include a 750-word or less statement of objective and documentation of results achieved. Any entry that does not include a statement of objective and documentation of results achieved will be considered incomplete and disqualified from competition.
12. Some categories, such as peer reviewed journals, require additional information for the entry. Please ensure you read the entry requirements for each category and submit a complete entry for proper consideration and judging.
13. GCA judges reserve the right to transfer entries submitted incorrectly under a Division and/or category to the correct category.
14. GCA judges may disqualify an entry for non-compliance with submission requirements.
15. **All categories that require printed hard copies of submitted materials must include six (6) hard copies with their submissions.** If the category requires two (2) consecutive issues, you must include six (6) entries of each issue. These entries must be received according to the deadlines outlined in point 1. above.
16. ASAE & The Center is not responsible for loss or damage of entry materials, and entries will not be returned.
17. By entering the GCA competition, submitters are granting permission for ASAE & The Center to post their entries to ASAE & The Center's Online Knowledge Center, a free resource for ASAE & The Center members. In addition, printed entries will be stored in ASAE & The Center's library at the ASAE & The Center offices at 1575 I Street NW, Washington, DC.

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SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS *(continued)*

18. To submit an entry:

- Complete a 2009 GCA Electronic Entry Form at www.asaecenter.org/goldcircle.
- Pay the GCA entry fee via credit card or check.

NOTE:

- If you are paying by check, you MUST enter the check number on the 2009 GCA Electronic Entry Form.
- Please make sure you have requested a check from your finance department before filling out the Electronic Entry Form.
- **Make sure you print a copy of your completed Electronic Entry Form and include it in the envelope with your check.**
- If the category requires print samples for the entry, **please also include a copy of your Electronic Entry Form with the print samples.**
- Checks (which should include a copy of the Electronic Entry Form) and print samples (including a copy of the Electronic Entry Form) can be sent to the following address:

ASAE & The Center
1575 I Street NW
Washington, DC 2008
Attn: Gold Circle Awards

19. GCA winners will be recognized with a crystal trophy at a special GCA ceremony during the 2009 ASAE & The Center Annual Meeting & Exposition on August 16, 2009 in Toronto, Canada. GCA winners will also be publicized in ASAE & The Center communications and publications.

20. The winner of the Council's Choice GCA will be announced during the awards ceremony on August 16, 2009. The Council's Choice winner will be selected by ASAE & The Center's Communication Section Council from among all the 2009 GCA winners. The winner will receive a special Council's Choice trophy.

21. If given by the GCA judges, entries receiving an Honorable Mention will receive a certificate plaque.

For more information about the GCA competition, please visit www.asaecenter.org/goldcircle or contact "DJ" Johnson, CAE; Manager, Volunteer Relations at 202.626.2885 or e-mail goldcircle@asaecenter.org.

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