

Creating a successful entry

ABC's Excellence in Construction (EIC) awards program is the industry's premier competition, with hundreds of projects vying for an Eagle Award or the top project of the year.

For members who are preparing their submissions for this year's competition, below are some tips to achieve a higher score:

The scope defines the project. It is also the first thing the judges read. Be sure to include all the items outlined in the application. A clean page layout increases readability, and using bullets allows the judges to easily learn about your project. Samples from winning projects can be seen at abccentralflorida.org/EIC.

The narrative tells the story. The narrative should be the highlight of the application. This is where applicants can brag about why a project is special. Obstacles that were overcome and explanations of extenuating circumstances should be communicated clearly and succinctly. Winning projects typically use creative subheads and a few small photos to capture the judges' attention. Demonstrate why your project is deserving of an EIC award.

Safety is always a priority. Be sure to include the information requested in this section of the application, but also take the opportunity to describe innovative safety programs that were utilized during the project.

Many times, the difference between winning an Eagle or an Award of Merit is a single point, and the overall presentation can be the easiest area in which to earn more points. Applicants should be sure to include all the items listed in the application and review the materials carefully to ensure they comply with the judging criteria before submitting. Plan your on-site presentation and site tour or presentation at ABC carefully to address each area to be evaluated. Creativity allows projects to stand out but be careful not to lose focus on the criteria.

In addition to ensuring the font design and size is legible, be sure your writing is free of grammatical errors, spelling mistakes and other typographical errors.

If you are scheduled for a presentation at ABC rather than an on-site presentation, your photographs are very important to your entry's success. Select the best photographs of your project and be sure each one has been reviewed by a safety expert to avoid a safety violation. It is important to include photographs that demonstrate progress (i.e. before and after) and include a clear and concise description of everything captured in the photograph, including relevant information related to the project narrative.

Take advantage of all possible points! Participating in ABC's Safety Training Evaluation Process (STEP) will also earn four additional points. The STEP program includes an application process online so be sure to get an early start. Visit <http://www.abcstep.org/> to get started.

Good luck!