

INFORMATION & SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

ACEC Delaware

2027 Engineering Excellence Awards

ACEC Delaware is proud to invite submissions for the 2027 Engineering Excellence Awards (EEA) - the state's premier celebration of engineering innovation, impact, and achievement.

The Engineering Excellence Awards honor projects that go beyond expectations - showcasing exceptional creativity, technical mastery, and meaningful contributions to the public good. Winning entries represent the very best of Delaware's engineering community and set the standard for excellence nationwide.

ABOUT THIS GUIDE

This packet contains the official ACEC Delaware eligibility requirements, entry categories, deadlines, fees, judging criteria, project-material specifications, delivery instructions, and national competition information for the 2027 awards cycle.

ENGINEERS WEEK RECOGNITION

Award recipients will be recognized during Engineers Week, February 21-27, 2027, a statewide celebration of the profession and its impact on everyday life.

This Is Your Opportunity To

- Showcase your firm's most impressive work
- Highlight the talent and dedication of your project teams
- Elevate your firm's visibility across Delaware and beyond
- Be recognized among the region's most distinguished engineering achievements

OCTOBER 30, 2026

INTENT TO SUBMIT + ENTRY FEE

NOVEMBER 30, 2026

FINAL APPLICATION + MATERIALS

Who Should Enter?

We welcome submissions from any firm engaged in the private practice of consulting engineering or surveying.

Project-Cost Categories

CATEGORY	PROJECT COST
A	Projects \$1,000,000 and under
B	Projects between \$1,000,000 and \$5,000,000
C	Projects \$5,000,000 and above

Firms are encouraged to submit multiple projects. Each entry requires a separate Intent to Submit form and entry fee.

Key Dates to Remember

DATE	MILESTONE
October 30, 2026	Intent to Submit form and entry fee due
November 30, 2026	Final application and all project materials due
January 15, 2026	ACEC Delaware award winners announced
January 6, 2027	ACEC National competition submission deadline
February 19-21, 2027	ACEC National judging weekend
February 21-27, 2027	Engineers Week
February 2027	Delaware Engineers Week Banquet and Awards Ceremony - date TBA
April 20, 2027	ACEC National Engineering Excellence Awards Gala - Washington, D.C.

Project Eligibility

Eligible entries include engineering projects, studies, plans, or designs completed by consulting engineers. Projects may be located anywhere in the world, provided that a substantial portion of the work was performed by employees based in Delaware.

- Research, studies, or surveying/mapping projects must have been publicly disclosed by the client between November 1, 2024 and October 31, 2026.
- Construction projects must have been substantially completed and ready for use between November 1, 2024 and October 31, 2026.
- Projects previously recognized in other competitions remain eligible.
- Firms may submit multiple entries.

Entry Fees

\$500 ACEC Delaware member firms	\$800 Non-member firms with a valid DAPE Certificate of Authorization
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PAYMENT DEADLINE

Entry fees must be mailed by October 30, 2026, to ACEC Delaware, P.O. Box 1858, Dover, DE 19903.

How Entries Are Judged

Each submission is evaluated with equal weight across five key criteria - 20% each:

- Innovative or original application of techniques
- Future value to the profession and public perception of engineering
- Social, economic, and sustainable design impact
- Technical complexity
- Ability to exceed client or owner expectations

Submission Requirements

FINAL DEADLINE

All final materials must be received by 4:00 p.m. on November 30, 2026.

Project Description - Up to Five Pages

Your project narrative should clearly and compellingly tell the story of your work.

- Use 8.5 x 11-inch pages with one-inch margins and 12-point type.
- Place the project title and page number on each page.
- Use black text only, with no color, graphics, logos, or design elements.
- Clearly describe the role of your firm and all collaborators.
- Address all five judging criteria.
- Include budget, actual cost, schedule, and completion date.
- Indicate whether the submission represents the full project or one discipline.
- In 50 words or fewer, explain what makes the project truly unique.
- Include key project participants and contact information.

Executive Summary - 100 Words Maximum

Provide a concise, powerful overview of your project.

- Use 100 words or fewer.
- Use 12-point type and double spacing.
- Place the project title at the top in 16-point type.
- Place the firm name below the title in 14-point type.
- The project title must match the Intent to Submit form exactly.
- Use plain paper without graphics or logos.

Photographs

Submit three high-quality JPEG images for each project.

- Images must be original, high-resolution files.
- Links to cloud storage or external websites will not be accepted.
- Photo of the panel project design

Project Display Panel

One 30 x 30-inch presentation board is required. The panel must include:

- ACEC logo in the upper-left corner
- Project title and location
- Client/owner name and location
- A maximum of six images or graphics
- A minimum 32-point font for body text
- A minimum 28-point font for captions

The firm name may appear on the panel. The easel must also display the firm's name and contact information.

Please email a copy of this panel project to info@acecde.org

PANEL DELIVERY

Panels and easels must be delivered by November 30, 2026. Delivery instructions will be provided after submission of the Intent to Submit form.

Email Submission Instructions

All digital materials must be sent to Info@ACECDE.org.

- Do not send zipped files.
- Submit Word documents for written materials.
- Send separate emails for each required item and each project.
- Clearly label all emails and attachments with the firm name and project title.
- Do not include QR codes or embedded links.

For each project, submit:

1. One email with the project description
2. One email with the executive summary
3. One email with the three JPEG photographs
4. One email with the photo of the project board

ACEC National Competition

Top Delaware entries may be nominated for the ACEC National Engineering Excellence Awards Competition.

- National entries require ACEC Delaware sponsorship.
- The national program follows a separate submission process.
- National entries must be submitted by January 6, 2027.
- Additional materials beyond the state requirements may be required.

NATIONAL COMPETITION DATES

Submission deadline: January 6, 2027 | Judging weekend: February 19-21, 2027 | National Gala: April 20, 2027 in Washington, D.C.

Celebrate Your Work. Elevate Your Impact.

The Engineering Excellence Awards are more than a competition - they are a celebration of the ideas, people, and projects that shape Delaware's future.

We strongly encourage all eligible firms to participate and share the work that defines your excellence.

QUESTIONS OR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Crystal Timmons-Bryant

Executive Director | ACEC Delaware

Info@ACECDE.org

We look forward to celebrating the very best of Delaware engineering with you.