



2026 SENH EXCELLENCE IN STRUCTURAL ENGINEERING AWARDS JUDGING CRITERIA

JURORS

A minimum of three jurors are selected to make up the Jury of Awards. The Board of Directors will appoint a Chairman / Juror and two other jurors to the Jury. Jurors should be well-respected and qualified structural engineers and be licensed PE's in New Hampshire. A juror should not have a conflict of interest with any of the Projects entered.

TABULATION OF ENTRIES

After the awards submission deadline, the SENH Administrator will tabulate and organize the entries into their respective categories. In each category, the entries will be numbered. The entries will be listed on a spreadsheet showing the key information about each entry. This is just for record keeping and has no role in the judging process. The Administrator will forward the summary spreadsheet, project submissions, and scoring forms to each juror.

JUDGING

The Chairman of the Jury will call for, schedule, and arrange a meeting of the Jury. The time, place, and means to hold the meeting (face-to-face, skype, teleconference, etc.) is at the discretion of the Chairman.

The judging process takes place in one day, as soon as practical after the entry closing date, and after each Juror has been given the summary spreadsheet, project submissions, and scoring forms. The goal is to have the judging process completed in one meeting.

The Chairman may contact the Applicant for additional information to assist with the review of the submittal.

Jurors will judge the submittals on the merits of their conformance to the required judging attributes and avoid high marks for submittals based on the "glamour factor", or the quality of their photographs. Jurors will avoid awarding mediocre project submissions. Jurors will judge excellence in structural engineering, not architecture, or spectacle. One entry in each category will be chosen to receive the SENH Excellence in Structural Engineering Award. The jury may also consider awarding an SENH Merit in Structural Engineering Award in any category. The "Merit Award" signifies recognition for achieving a good standard or performance level, while the "Excellence Award" indicates a significantly higher level of achievement, signifying outstanding performance that surpasses the typical "Merit" level.

The entries should be judged on the following criteria:

- Creativity of structural design
- Complexity of criteria or unique problems
- Innovative application of new or existing materials or techniques
- Ingenuity of design for efficient use of materials and labor
- Suitability of the structure for its environment

Scoring forms will be provided to the jurors. The forms will show the entry project name and have a place for the jurors to enter their scores and comments for each of the criteria. Each juror will review each submittal and determine their score for each project. It is suggested that the jurors read several of the submittals before starting to score them. It takes a review of a few submittals to develop a feel for how to score them. If the jurors have different relative scores for the same quality level but are consistent, the difference between jurors should be irrelevant. Jurors should complete scoring forms in advance of the Jury Meeting.

The Chairman will go over each project in the category with the Jury. Each juror shares their scoring form and will rank their selections for each category. The Jurors will then discuss their rankings and decide as a group which projects should be selected for awards.

There is normally one award (Excellence Award) given in each of the four (4) categories. Jurors have the discretion to:

- Award a second award (Merit Award) or no awards in a specific category based on the strength of the submissions.
- Not be required or obligated to make an award in any category based on only having one submission in a category.
- Not be required or obligated to make an award in a category based on having no submissions in that category.
- Not be required or obligated to make an award for “mediocre” projects submitted.
- Consider a project entered in one category for judging and award in another category.
- Consider making an additional award for Small Firm Project Award but are not obligated to make this award.
- Shall give preference to projects constructed in New Hampshire and/or designed by firms with offices in New Hampshire.

Jurors tally sheets and scoring forms will be kept until the awards are presented in case there is some need to refer to them.

AWARDS PRESENTATION

The Chairman of the Jury will inform the SENH President and SENH Administrator of the winners / awards to be presented.

The SENH Administrator will arrange for appropriate plaques for the winners. Awards are announced and presented at the SENH annual meeting in May. Awards are presented by the SENH President. A brief summary of each project is included in the presentation. Photos are taken of each award winner receiving the award from the SENH President. Award winners are posted on the SENH Website and the August SENH Newsletter and will also be published in a local media outlet (newspaper).

NCSEA Awards Program

The SENH Board of Directors, at their discretion, may select one of the projects receiving a SENH Award, to be advanced (entered) into the NCSEA Excellence in Structural Engineering Awards Program. The Board will evaluate each of the four Excellence project awards after the May program awards and determine if one of the projects rises to the level of national competition with NCSEA. If the Board decides to advance one SENH Project Award to NCSEA (with agreement by the Award winner). SENH will support the project entry to NCSEA and pay the entry fee (\$545).