

Guidelines for Hosting a Judges Training Class

Judges Training Classes are not just for those who are or are training to be iris judges. All irisarians can benefit from: learning what judges look for when judging show stalks, how to identify a good iris in the garden, being exposed to new types of irises, or finding out what all the iris awards mean. For judges and judges-in-training, Judges Training Classes are essential for maintaining or achieving their judgeship. These classes include both classroom instruction and in-garden evaluation.

So, where do Judges Training Classes come from? They are given at AIS Regional and National Conventions, but the majority come from affiliate clubs who ask an accredited AIS judge to teach one or have a garden tour during which in-garden training can be given by an accredited AIS judge. Hosting a Judges Training Class, either classroom or in-garden, is not difficult, but there are steps that must be taken.

1. There is a Judges Training Class Notification form, posted on the R17 website at www.aisregion17.org for you to submit, or you can get approval by phone.
2. The hosting group has a responsibility to inform the R17 Judges and Candidates of the class. The class should be planned far enough in advance to be published in either the Spring or Fall Region 17 Newsletter. A copy of the approved Judges Training Class Notification form also needs to be submitted to the **Region 17 Newsletter Editor**:

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Midland, TX 79707
(432) 697-6340 (432) 352-5483 (cell)
debrastrauss@outlook.com

If this is not feasible, it is the hosting group's responsibility to notify all R17 Judges and Candidates by email, phone, or letter in time for them to attend if they would like. The list of current Judges and Candidates is posted on the R17 website.

3. For the class to meet AIS requirements:
 - a. the instructor must be an active, fully accredited AIS Judge (Garden or Master Judge)
 - b. there must be two or more participants
 - c. the instructor must provide an exam of at least 10 questions per hour of instruction
4. Within 2 weeks following the class, a report must be sent to the **Region 17 Judges Training Chair**:

Dana Brown
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Lubbock, TX 79403
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The report must include the following and may be scanned and emailed or sent via USPS:

- a. region in which the class was given
- b. name of the sponsoring group
- c. date and location of the class
- d. subject matter of the class and the instructor's name
- e. hours of credit to be given to the attendees
- f. list of attendees showing
 - i. name

- ii. type of judge, if applicable
 - iii. home Region
 - iv. indicator of whether the class was taken for judge's credit or not
- g. either the test score for each attendee, or the actual test pages
- h. two blank copies of the test
5. The sponsoring group may charge a fee for the class
6. Although not a requirement, the sponsoring group should offer the instructor a small stipend and/or travel reimbursement for presenting the class.

OK, we'll do one, but how do we start?

- First, appoint a person to be in charge.
- Then remember, any active accredited AIS judge can be an instructor; they just need to be asked. Do they have a topic they prefer to teach? If so, you have your subject. If not, or if you want a specific topic, ask them if they would teach it. Some possible topics include exhibition judging of Louisiana iris, in-garden judging of Tall Bearded iris, AIS Awards and Balloting, Novelty/Space-Age iris, Aril/Arilbred iris, seedling evaluation, Median iris, AIS Show Rules, and Reblooming iris.
- Once you have an instructor and a subject, agree on a date and find a facility in which to hold the class.
- Fill out the Judges Training Class Notification form and get approval from the Region 17 RVP.
- Submit a copy of the approved Judges Training Class Notification form to the newsletter editor or, if too late, notify the R17 judges and candidates.
- Enjoy the class.
- Take the test.
- Send the required report and tests to the R17 Judges Training Chair.
- Congratulate yourselves on a job well done.
- Start planning next year's training class.

If you are interested in learning about becoming an Iris Judge, please contact your R17 Judges Training Chair. It is a lot of fun, you get to travel, and best of all, you meet lots of great people.