**Candidate Judge**

To get started as a Candidate Judge you must:

* have a desire to judge
* be a member of ADS
* participate in the training (we offer two in-person judging seminars a year) and actual judging
* have a copy of the *Classification and Handbook of Dahlias* (comes with ADS membership) and the *Guide to Judging Dahlia*s, available on the ADS website store
* plan to exhibit

Once you are a Candidate, your training, judging experience, and exhibiting experience will lead you fulfill the requirements to move up to Accredited Judge and eventually Senior Judge.

**Accredited Judge**

To become an Accredited Judge, you are required to have:

* exhibited dahlias for five years
* passed a written examination on judging dahlias based on the current ADS Judging Manual, the ADS Classification and Handbook of Dahlias and the ADS Seedling Scorecard
* served as a Candidate Judge in at least five dahlia shows in the last three years
* acquired a current ADS Judging Manual

**Senior Judge**

To become a Senior Judge, you are required to have:

* served a four-year apprenticeship as an Accredited Judge
* judged at a trial garden or seedling bench, judging at least once per year for the past four years.
* demonstrated to the satisfaction of the Evaluation Chair your ability to use an ADS Evaluation Scorecard in judging seedlings
* demonstrated the ability to properly classify blooms as to size, type, and color
* demonstrated your ability to identify what a seedling would compete against going forward, either from memory or from the ADS Classification and Handbook of Dahlias
* passed the Senior Judge’s Test