

Circle of Diamonds Frequently Asked Questions

Question: Why should my RC&D Council go to the trouble of applying for membership in the Circle of Diamonds?

Answer: The Circle of Diamonds Program is special: in that members of the Circle will have proven their exemplary public accountability and the program will highlight your Council's unique ability to attain specific benchmarks set forth in the attached application. This program is designed to highlight those Councils that have produced quality programs within their local community. In addition, this mark of excellence will assist Council's in showcasing themselves to their local community, other Councils, and the Nation.

This program is designed to give recognition to councils for the good work they do in their local communities, to recognize that they are good stewards of their non-profit organization and to publicize their good standing among their peers.

The program was set up to be proactive approach for councils to demonstrate that they are complying with the basic requirements of the RC&D statute, their other legal responsibilities, and best non-profit management practices.

Question: How much does it cost to be a member?

Answer: There is no charge or special dues to be a member of the Circle of Diamonds. However, your council must be a dues paying member of the NARC&DC to be eligible for consideration.

Question: Does the size of our council's budget influence our ability to qualify for membership?

Answer: No, although it has been shown that council's with larger budgets are often more organized and willing to take greater risks.

Question: Why do we have to provide references?

Answer: References provide a means of verifying the information provided. In addition their enthusiasm for work done gives us testimony that can be used with Congress, governors and others whom can influence funding for the program.

Question: You are asking for a great deal of information that takes time to assemble, leaving less time to "Make Things Happen."

Answer: Most of the information requested should be readily available if a council is operating effectively. Much of the data is used to provide us with a total look at what is going on in the field.

Question: We are a small council and do not complete many projects each year. Will this affect our chances?

Answer: The number of projects is just one of many items that are considered in granting C of D status. What is more important is how you are operating as a council with regards to assistance in improving the quality of life for the residents.

Question: Once a member of the C of D, what happens next?

Answer: You must apply for reauthorization each year. Your council name will be placed on the NARC&DC's website as a Circle of Diamonds member. Hopefully you will strive to apply for the next level of certification.