Q. WHAT IS THE AWARDS OF EXCELLENCE PROGRAM?
A. The Awards of Excellence (AOE) program reflects the commitment of NALP members to create and preserve the beauty of our industry. Our Awards of Excellence program showcases superior projects in the areas landscape, lawn care, interior maintenance, and design/build, as well as installation, container plantings, special events and erosion control. Projects range in size and scope from less than $25K to more than $1M.

Q. WHO CAN ENTER THE AOE PROGRAM?
A. Membership in NALP is required for firms entering projects in this program.

Q. HOW ARE THE PROJECTS JUDGED?
A. Entries are judged individually on a point system through which they can receive a GOLD, SILVER or BRONZE level award. Awards may be presented to multiple entries within each category, as the judges deem appropriate. In addition, there is a DECADE Award for top projects that fall into decade category, and from among the highest scoring GOLD Award winners, a select panel of judges chooses one or more projects to receive the prestigious JUDGES Award. Awards of Excellence judges represent the different regions of the country and areas of industry expertise and are made up of NALP members and nonmembers.

Q. WHAT IS THE COST?
A. There is a $499 fee for each entry. Entries submitted by the early-bird deadline qualify for a discount.
Q. WHAT IS REQUIRED FOR EACH ENTRY?
A. Applicants complete an online entry form on the NALP website. They must submit several photos and a design (if project is in a Design category) for each project. Companies can submit as many projects as they wish, but projects that previously received a GOLD (previously known as GRAND) Award cannot be resubmitted for the same category.

Q. WHAT ARE THE DIFFERENT CATEGORIES YOU MAY ENTER?
A. Residential Landscape Management, Commercial Landscape Management, Residential Design/Build, Residential Lawn Care, Residential Landscape Contracting, Interior Installation, Interior Maintenance, Interior Containerized Plantings, Erosion Control/Ecological Restoration, Exterior Lawn Care, Decade Award, Special Events Exterior, Commercial Design/Build, Commercial Lawn Care, Commercial Landscape Contracting, Interior Design/Build, Special Events Interior, Exterior Landscape Mgmt. Decade Award, Interior Maintenance Decade Award

Q. WHAT ARE THE RULES FOR THE PHOTOS?
A. No photo enhancement allowed — Photos enhanced by any artificial means will be disqualified. Photos must be no more than two years old.

Q. HOW ARE THE WINNERS’ PROJECTS PROMOTED?
A. Awards of Excellence winners are honored and receive their award at the annual Awards Recognition Reception held at LANDSCAPES of every year.

The Awards of Excellence winners also are listed on the NALP website and a press release is sent to industry media. NALP promotes award-winning projects and photos on its website, blog, social media and via press releases. As a result, each year many award winners earn invaluable press coverage in trade press, consumer press and online media, such as Houzz.