Congratulations on Beginning Your Journey as an

**American Orchid Society Judge**

The AOS Judging Committee welcomes you to our orchid-judging family. Over the next six years, you will gain a vast wealth of knowledge about orchids, meet lots of interesting people who share your interest and become part of a vibrant community of orchid judges.

The life of a student judge involves homework, papers/presentations and hands-on judging experience at judging centers and orchid shows. Traveling to centers/shows beyond your local judging center is a great way to broaden your experience. And attending AOS Members Meetings affords wonderful opportunities for meeting expert orchid growers who will be happy to share their knowledge with you.

Your local judging center, Education (Training) Coordinator and advisers will assist you in becoming an Associate Judge with full voting rights on awards and, ultimately, an Accredited Judge.

We have put together some resources to help you get started:

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| **Attachments to This Letter** | **AOS.org Resources** |
| * What to Add to your Judging Bag!
* Judging Competency Goals
* Quick Reference for Plant and Exhibit Award Descritpions
* Award Description Worksheet
* Orchid Flower and Plant Parts
* Resources for Judging Education
 | * [Webinars](https://www.aos.org/orchids/webinars.aspx)
* [Orchid Awards and Judging](https://www.aos.org/orchid-awards-judging.aspx) + submenus
* [Handbook for Judges](https://www.aos.org/orchid-awards-judging/judging-handbook.aspx)
* [Descriptive Terminology for the Orchid Judge](https://op.aos.org/docs/Terminology.pdf)
* [Orchidist’s Glossary](https://www.aos.org/orchids/orchidists-glossary.aspx)
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We hope that your journey to becoming an orchid judge is a fun and fulfilling one! Good luck!