

## **MCA JUDGING PROGRAM – HOW TO BECOME A CERTIFIED JUDGE AND A GOLD CARD JUDGE**

The purpose of this document is to inform MCA members how they can enter into the MCA Judging Program and progress through the ranks. Everyone is encouraged to participate in the judging process. There are many benefits to volunteering your time to judge with most agreeing that judging is just plain fun! Following are bullet items that describe how one becomes a judge and how they can progress further in the MCA Judging Program.

- **Types of Judges:**
  - **Assistant Judges**
    - Anyone can be an Assistant Judge.
    - To be an Assistant Judge, determine what area you would like to judge and then locate the MCA Assistant National Head Judge (ANHJ) for that area. Let them know that you would like to help and they will assign you to a team at a National or Grand National show.
    - Being an Assistant Judge is the best way to enter the MCA Judging Program.
    - By being an Assistant Judge, it is almost guaranteed that you will pass the Certification Test (for the year's Mustang that you are interested in). Generally, it's a good idea to be an Assistant Judge 2 times before requesting a test. Although, this is not a requirement to take a Certification test.
  - **Certified Judges**
    - Any MCA member can become a Certified Judge.
    - To become a Certified Judge, you have to pass an on-line test by correctly answering at least 80% of the questions (More about the tests later), judge the class you are getting certified in and be recommended by the appropriate ANHJ.
    - After passing the on-line test, you will be able to download the Certification Certificate with your name, MCA number and classes you are being certified for.
    - You may then inform the appropriate ANHJ that you want to complete the certification process. The ANHJ will assign you to a judging team and after satisfactorily judging with a team the ANHJ will sign your certification certificate and submit a request for your plastic wallet card.
    - Once you are a Certified Judge, you are one for life. Certifications do expire if your MCA membership lapses.
  - **Gold Card Judges**
    - Any MCA Certified Judge can become a Gold Card Judge in the classes that they are certified.
    - To become a Gold Card Judge, you have to be appointed by the National Head Judge who is responsible for that era of Mustangs based on referrals from an MCA Assistant National Head Judge and/or other MCA Gold Card Judges.
    - To attain Gold Card Judge status, you must first indicate your aspiration to the appropriate MCA Assistant National Head Judge.
    - The MCA ANHJ will then begin an evaluation process that will include pairing you with other Gold Card Judges. These Gold Card Judges will provide feedback

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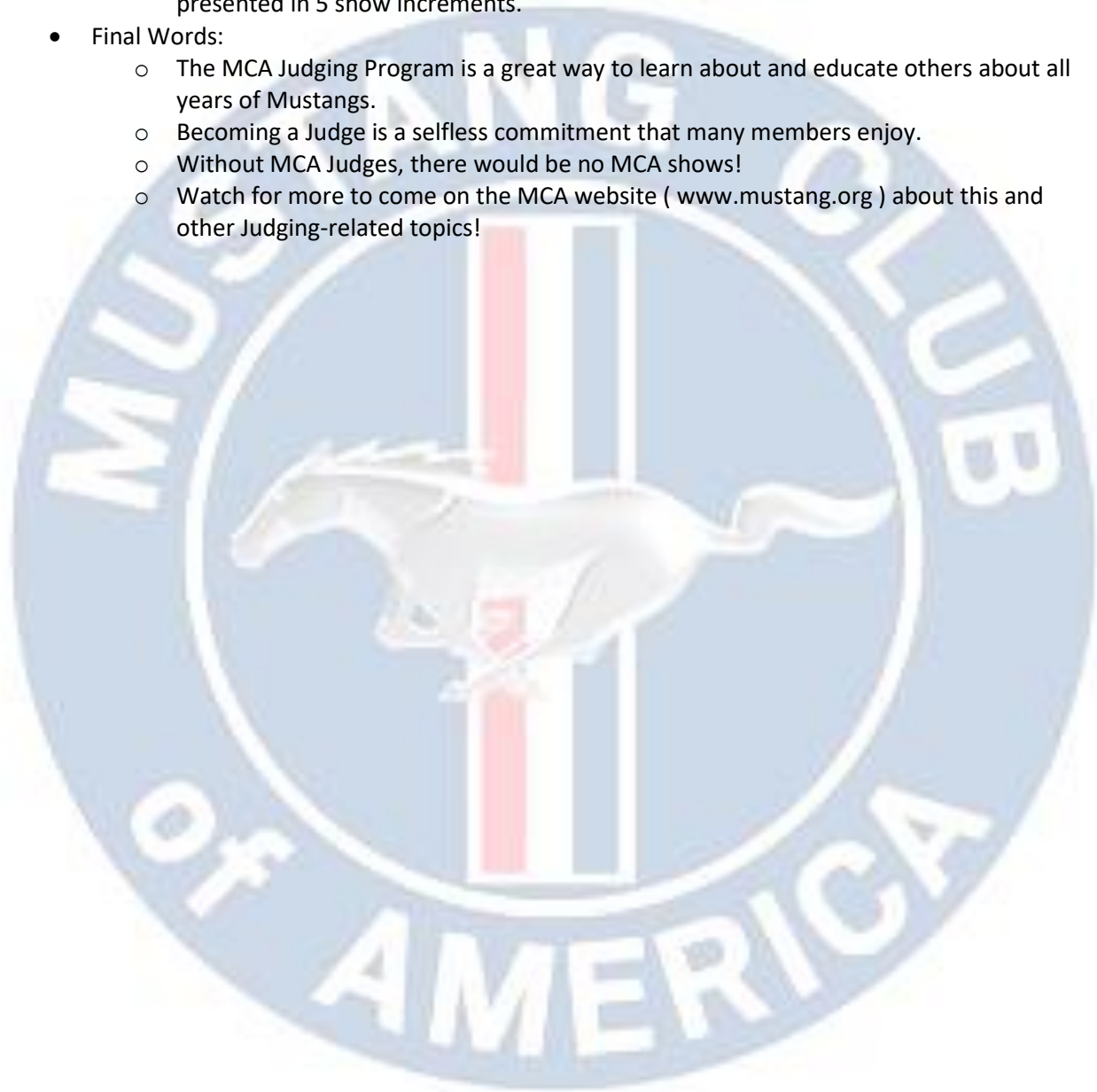
- to the ANHJ which will be considered in the evaluation process. You may also be personally paired with the MCA ANHJ for evaluation purposes.
- Do not be intimidated by this process. The goal is to evaluate your knowledge and get you to where you need to be to become a Gold Card Judge. Nearly everyone that follows down the Gold Card Judge path will eventually attain Gold Card status.
  - Based on the opinion of the ANHJ and recommendations of other Gold Card Judges that have judged with you, the ANHJ will submit a request to the National Head Judge that you be appointed to Gold Card Judge status.
  - Once you become a Gold Card Judge, your status will last for 5 years. You will receive a special Gold Card Judge card with your name and MCA number on it and the classes you are a Gold Card for. The card will also specify the expiration date.
  - MCA prefers Gold Card Judges to judge at least one MCA National show per year. The club understands that there are personal issues that might prohibit someone from attending, but we highly encourage participation.
- Assistant National Head Judges
    - Assistant National Head Judges are appointed by the National Head Judge.
  - National Head Judges
    - The National Head Judges are appointed by the MCA President.
    - There are 2 MCA National Head Judges. One for 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Generation and one for 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Generation.
- Certification Tests:
    - Certification Tests is located on the MCA website.  
<http://www.mustang.org/content.php/337-MCA-Online-Judging-System-Take-a-test-and-become-an-MCA-Judge!>
    - You have up to thirty days to complete the test.
    - If the time passes and you haven't completed the test a new test will be produced, so try to complete before thirty days.
    - If you fail the test, you have a total of three tries before you're locked out for a period of time.
    - You may use any resource to find the answers to the questions, except for asking other MCA Judges for answers!
    - Typical resources for the Certification Tests would include the MCA Rulebook online <http://www.mustang.org/content.php/185-Mustang-Judging-Rules>, period Ford documentation or literature, observing low mileage Unrestored or well-restored cars or participating in online Mustang forums where information may be available.
    - Once you have completed the test and passed, you will be able to print a Certification certificate with your name, MCA# and class you're certified in already printed on the certificate. If you failed it will inform you, so you can try again with a new test.
    - To complete the certification process and receive your plastic wallet card, you need to attend a MCA National show. Working with the Assistant National Head Judge, he or she will pair you up with someone to judge a group of cars. The idea is to give you the experience of judging in a national event, understanding how important you are as an ambassador of MCA.

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- Judges Awards:
  - At each National show where you judge, there will be a sign-up sheet which you need to be sure to write your name and MCA number on. This sheet is used to track how many shows you have judged. After judging 5 shows, you will receive a special Judge Award, presented by one of the MCA National Head Judges. Additional awards are presented in 5 show increments.
- Final Words:
  - The MCA Judging Program is a great way to learn about and educate others about all years of Mustangs.
  - Becoming a Judge is a selfless commitment that many members enjoy.
  - Without MCA Judges, there would be no MCA shows!
  - Watch for more to come on the MCA website ( [www.mustang.org](http://www.mustang.org) ) about this and other Judging-related topics!



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