

Communities in Bloom

Could You Be A CiB Judge?



The Program

Communities in Bloom is about building beautiful, healthy and sustainable communities. The Communities in Bloom program and its judges have a simple aim. They are helping communities to become better places to live.

The Rewards

Volunteering as a judge for Communities in Bloom provides the opportunity to meet amazing people in communities across Alberta and potentially the rest of Canada. With great pride, participating communities tell their stories, including their achievements and challenges. The judges see and learn about each community in a way a tourist never could. There is a great sense of satisfaction in assessing the criteria under evaluation for Communities in Bloom and offering an outsider's honest opinion by commenting on the wonderful strengths of the community and providing constructive suggestions to address weaknesses. Judging with Communities in Bloom is a very rewarding experience!

The Commitment

- Prospective judges are expected to attend a judging workshop to learn about the program and about the judging process. This workshop is usually held on a Saturday afternoon and Sunday morning in April. Travel and accommodation expenses are covered.
- Community evaluations take place between mid-July and mid-August. First year judges generally visit 3 or 4 communities (or less) and are teamed with an experienced judge. Also, every effort is made to match judges with complementary strengths to ensure communities have the best possible judging experience.
- Judges are generally in the community for a day of evaluating and usually overnight there, or in a nearby community. The community hosts the judges and travel expenses are covered.
- The judging team uses a standardized evaluation form to complete their "scoring" and documentation of written comments and suggestions. Both judges on the team have equal standing, but the experienced judge assumes the role of coordinator to tend to the details of communicating in advance with the community and is responsible to ensure that the evaluation report is properly submitted on time to the provincial co-ordinator.



The Communities in Bloom Judge

- Should be community-minded and have a clear understanding of how the community creates and enhances quality of life,
- Must really enjoy people, be a good listener and be able to draw necessary details from both written and verbal information,
- Should have a good general knowledge of at least one, and an interest in all of the following areas: a) horticulture including landscaping, floral displays, trees, turf and green spaces; b) community development and basic municipal structure (especially public works and parks), c) volunteer contributions and involvement, d) both social and natural history, and environmental issues and initiatives to protect and improve the environment, and
- Should have generally good writing skills to prepare the evaluation reports. Reports consist of observations about the strengths in each category and suggestions that are within the ability of the community.

