

FAQS

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS **ABOUT AIS REGION 2**



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ANSWERS TO FAQs

What is Region 2 of the American Iris Society (AIS)?

The AIS is divided into 22 regions. New York State, and the Provinces of Ontario and Quebec comprise Region 2 of the American Iris Society a.k.a. AIS Region 2. If you join the AIS and live in this area, you automatically become a member of AIS Region 2.

For more information, check the AIS Region 2 website, [Home Page \(aisregion2.org\)](http://aisregion2.org).

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What is the AIS and what are the benefits of joining?

The AIS is a not-for-profit organization dedicated to working with and for iris hybridizers, growers, and iris lovers to promote and advance the iris. The AIS offers many benefits.

- A quarterly full-color bulletin which includes articles on growing and hybridizing different types of irises, reviews of show gardens, news on award winning irises, stories on people in the iris world, information about various iris sections, conventions, iris shows and administrative information about the AIS.
- A monthly e-newsletter, 'News and Notes', containing information on upcoming AIS and AIS Section events e.g. meetings, conventions, webinars, contests and more.
- An annual photo contest where you can win prizes.
- Judges' Training program where you can learn more about irises including how to evaluate them based on the guidelines of the AIS Handbook for Judges and Show Officials.

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What is the mission of Region 2?

The mission of AIS Region 2 and its affiliates is the same as the mission of the American Iris Society which is, *"...to organize and disseminate knowledge of the genus Iris, while fostering its preservation, enjoyment, and continued development. The AIS welcomes all people regardless of race, religion, socio-economic status, ethnic background, gender, or sexual orientation."*

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How can I get involved in AIS Region 2?

You can become an Officer of the Board or sit on the Board as a Committee Chair. You can attend any of the zoom meetings and contribute your ideas. You can also contribute to the newsletter by writing articles or submitting photography.

If you are interested in getting involved, you may contact any of the Board members. Contact information is found on the AIS Region 2 website, [Officers \(aisregion2.org\)](https://aisregion2.org).

You can also take part in the activities of one of the affiliates which are smaller clubs within the region. Each affiliate has its own Board as well as opportunities for members to get involved with the organization of the club.

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What is an affiliate?

Affiliates are subsidiary groups, or clubs, within AIS Region 2. AIS members in certain areas of the region have established an affiliate. Each affiliate has benefits over and above those offered by the AIS. These can include presentations, flower shows, plant sales, and other social events. Some have websites, Facebook accounts and their own newsletter.

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Where are the affiliates in AIS Region 2 and where do they meet?

There are currently four affiliates in AIS Region 2,

- Capital-Hudson Iris Society (CHIS) which meets at the Cornell Cooperative Extension Office of Albany County, 24 Martin Road, Voorheesville, New York.
- Greater Rochester Iris Society (GRIS) which meets at the St. John's Episcopal Church, 11 Episcopal Avenue in Honeoye Falls, New York (south of Rochester).
- Ontario Iris Society (ONIS) has events in lieu of regular meetings. These events are held at the Toronto Botanical Garden in Toronto, Ontario.
- Western New York Iris Society (WNYIS) which meets at Julia Boyer Reinstein Library, 1030 Losson Road, Cheektowaga, New York (a suburb of Buffalo).

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How do I join an affiliate? Is there an extra cost?

Contact the Chair of the affiliate you are interested in joining for details. Information is found on the AIS Region 2 website, [Officers \(aisregion2.org\)](https://aisregion2.org).

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Do I have to be a member of the American Iris Society (AIS) to join an affiliate?

All affiliates accept non-AIS iris lovers; however, some charge a separate membership fee. Contact the Affiliate Chair of the affiliate you are interested in joining for details, [Officers \(aisregion2.org\)](https://aisregion2.org).

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What if there is no affiliate close to me?

You can start your own affiliate. Contact the RVP for details on how to do this, [Officers \(aisregion2.org\)](https://aisregion2.org).

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What activities can I get involved in?

AIS Region 2 has monthly zoom meetings where you can share your ideas and learn from other AIS Region 2 members.

Each Affiliate organizes different activities for its members such as presentations, flower shows (physical and/or virtual), rhizome/plant sales, potluck events and more. Contact the Affiliate Chair of the affiliate you wish to join for details, [Officers \(aisregion2.org\)](https://aisregion2.org)

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Are children welcome?

The AIS has its own Youth membership for gardeners 18 and under. Check the AIS website for details, [Youth Membership – American Iris Society \(irises.org\)](https://irises.org).

Otherwise check with the Affiliate Chair of the affiliate you are interested in joining for details on youth activities, [Officers \(aisregion2.org\)](https://aisregion2.org)

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What is Region 2's involvement with the public?

Each affiliate will have its own plan for community involvement. Contact the Affiliate Chair of the affiliate you wish to join for details, [Officers \(aisregion2.org\)](https://aisregion2.org)

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Where can I learn about the cultural requirements and care of irises?

All new AIS members receive a 'Basic Iris Culture' booklet as part of their welcome package. In here you will find cultural information on various types of irises.

The AIS regularly offers webinars which you can attend from the comfort of your own home. These are later posted on the AIS YouTube website for future reference, [The American Iris Society - YouTube](#).

Affiliates offer presentations with handouts at their meetings. These meetings are usually open to anyone interested in attending.

There is a multitude of websites that offer information on growing and caring for irises, as well as Facebook groups devoted to the love of irises.

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What is Judges' Training (JT)?

Judges' Training is an AIS program whereby individuals learn to evaluate irises in the garden and at iris exhibitions (shows) to become an accredited AIS judge.

Accredited judges are the backbone of the AIS judging program and are responsible for the selection of AIS award winners. It is the judges' votes that determine which iris receive awards and thus are recommended to the public.

If you are not interested in becoming a judge, the courses offered in this program can provide you with information about the qualities found in a good garden iris.

Contact the Region 2 Judges' Training Chair for more details, [Officers \(aisregion2.org\)](#).

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