



ATHENA Leadership Award 2026 Dates and FAQs

Nomination Submission Deadline

Friday, September 11, 2026, 5 pm. NO LATE APPLICATIONS ACCEPTED – NO EXCEPTIONS.

Timeline

- Please make sure your nominee is aware of these dates:
- Reception for ATHENA Nominees Thursday, September 17, 2026 – 6 pm (by invitation only)
- Reception for Young ATHENA Nominees – Wednesday, September 30, 2026 (by invitation only)
- Luncheon Wednesday, November 4, 2026 –Pinewood Country Club in Slidell.
Doors open at 11:30 am. Program begins at noon.
- Reservations will open on September 11, 2026.
Reservations are \$45 per guest if received by Friday, October 15 at 5 p.m.
After October 15, reservations are \$55 if received by Wednesday, October 28 at 5 pm.
Online reservations will close on Wednesday, October 28 at 5 p.m.
Phone-in reservations will remain available (until sold out) through October 31 at 5 pm.
After phone-in reservations close on October 31, no additional reservations are available.
Only guests with reservations can be accommodated the day of the luncheon, November 5.
- Reserve online via website link at <https://ATHENAest.org> or call Tara Ingram-Hunter at 985.288.8116.

What is the ATHENA award?

It is an international award that celebrates exemplary leadership and is reflective of a quote by Plato: *What is honored in a country will be cultivated there.* Presented to leaders across professional sectors, the ATHENA Leadership Award's rich history, international scope and focus on mentorship distinguish it as one of the most prestigious leadership awards one can receive.

Who can be nominated?

- ATHENA Leadership Award nominees may represent either the profit or not-for-profit sector.
- Previous ATHENA Leadership Award recipients are not eligible for nomination, however past nominees may be nominated again.
- There is no minimum or maximum age qualification for award nominees.
- Must live or work in East St. Tammany Parish.

What information is important to the selection committee?

- ATHENA Leadership Award nominees must meet *all* of the following criteria:
 - I. Demonstrates ATHENA's Eight Principles of Enlightened Leadership™ in all aspects of their life: Live Authentically, Learn Constantly, Build Relationships, Foster Collaboration, Act Courageously, Advocate Fiercely, Give Back and Celebrate.
 - II. Demonstrates excellence, creativity and initiative in their business or profession.
 - III. Provides valuable service to improve the quality of life for others in their community.
 - IV. Actively assists women in achieving their full leadership potential.
- It is through your answers and information presented that the committee learns about your nominee's accomplishments. Answer the questions directly and *use specific examples*, avoiding such descriptors as "goes above and beyond." The nomination form should be completed assuming that the committee is meeting your nominee for the first time. Please do not submit a resume and/or bulleted items in lieu of completing the application questions.
- Please use all your resources, including the nominee and others who know the nominee, to present a complete, descriptive, accurate and detailed nomination.
- You may include supporting documents and testimonials from (1) colleagues on how your nominee has helped others, especially women and (2) those she has touched in public service and how it has impacted their lives.

How can I determine if my nominee is a strong candidate for this recognition?

The ATHENA Leadership Award recognizes leadership, excellence and mentorship as a reflection of all of the ATHENA Eight Principles of Enlightened Leadership and when applications are reviewed, they are scored based on each of the principles. If a candidate is very strong in one or more, but not all, of the principles, it is recommended that nominations be postponed until such time as nominees have strong accomplishments in all of the eight principles. It is important to provide *specific examples* of how the nominee meets each of these principles.

How do I submit a nomination?

- The official nomination form and format must be used. Available at <https://ATHENAest.org>.
- Please type your responses. The nomination form is fillable via computer. Be sure to save the completed file to your computer before submitting, and submit the saved version.
- Return completed form to: ATHENA NOMINATION, PO Box 783, Slidell LA 70459 or email to athena@athenaest.org. Please include "ATHENA nomination" in the email subject line.

When is the award presented?

The recipient will be announced at a special luncheon hosted in November (see complete timeline at the top of this document.) The nominee and the nominator are both strongly encouraged to attend the luncheon.

Additional information

For more info or assistance in completing the ATHENA nomination form, contact Laurie Jugan at (985) 640-1681 or email athena@athenaest.org. For email inquiries, please include "ATHENA nomination questions" in the subject line.

For criteria, submission and additional information about nominations for the Young ATHENA Professional Leadership Award, please refer to the Young ATHENA nomination form available at <https://ATHENAest.org>.