

2026 AL MÉRITO AWARD CALL FOR NOMINATIONS



AL MÉRITO AWARD

Over fifty years ago, the Arizona Historical Society established the Al Mérito Award to recognize those who have contributed significantly to preserving and promoting Arizona history. Named for the nineteenth-century award bestowed by a newly independent government of Mexico for meritorious service to the Republic, almérito literally translates to *for merit*. Today, the Arizona Historical Society's highest honor acknowledges meritorious service for those who preserve and celebrate Arizona history. Following a review of all nominations, the AHS Board of Directors select at least one individual and one organization/group to receive the Al Mérito Award annually. The Al Mérito Award will be presented and the recipients publicly honored during the Arizona Historical Society Annual Meeting in the Fall of 2026.

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

Nominations for the 2026 Arizona Historical Society Al Mérito Award will be open from March 1 to April 30, 2026. All nominations must be received no later than **April 30, 2026**. Nomination forms received after that date cannot be considered.

The Arizona Historical Society established the Al Mérito Award in 1973 to recognize individuals and organizations/groups from every corner of the state who have made outstanding contributions and serve as role models for preserving Arizona's rich history.

We invite nominations of organizations and/or individuals whose special achievements have enriched the community through their vision, dedication, and love of Arizona history. Note: Applications may be submitted by anyone. AHS staff, AHS Board of Directors, and Chapter Board members are not eligible recipients while active. Applications will be reviewed based on the following criteria:

- ❖ Outstanding contributions or extraordinary efforts to interpret and disseminate Arizona history.
- ❖ Demonstrated enrichment of a community (as defined by the applicant).
- ❖ Serve as a role model for the preservation of Arizona history.
- ❖ Number of years worked in the field of Arizona history.
- ❖ Preservation of previously untold Arizona history or engagement with an underserved audience.
- ❖ No self nominations or posthumous nominations will be accepted.

The nomination form is attached as a fillable PDF form. If additional space is needed to provide justification for the nomination, please include additional pages. No handwritten nominations will be accepted.

Please return the completed nomination form by **April 30, 2026** to membership@azhs.gov, or mail to Maxwell Edwards-Abbott, Arizona Heritage Center, 1300 N College Ave., Tempe, AZ 85288.

For questions regarding the Al Mérito Award Nomination, please call Maxwell Edwards-Abbott at **(480) 387-5359** or email to membership@azhs.gov.

2026 AL MÉRITO AWARD NOMINATION FORM



The Al Mérito Award was created in 1973 by the Board of the Arizona Historical Society to recognize individuals and organizations/groups who have made significant contributions to the preservation and promotion of Arizona's rich history.

Nominations for the 2026 award are to be submitted no later than **April 30, 2026**. *Nominations received after this date will not be considered. No handwritten nominations will be accepted.*

Name of nominator: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Return this completed nomination form to **membership@azhs.gov**, or mail to Maxwell Edwards-Abbott, Arizona Heritage Center, 1300 N College Ave., Tempe, AZ 85288.

Nominations are due April 30, 2026. Late nominations will not be accepted.

Name of individual or organization being nominated: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Describe the qualifications and merits of your nominee for the Al Mérito Award. Nominations will be evaluated based on the strength of the criteria outlined in the Al Mérito description. Attach additional pages if necessary.

2026 AL MÉRITO AWARD NOMINATION FORM

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