

# ATHENA RACING

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## **It's a Checkered Flag for the Winning Applicants of This STEM Education High School Race Team**

The inaugural team of ten for the premiere high school extracurricular STEM education program, Athena Racing, has been announced. The focus is STEM education, the vehicle that delivers it is the racecar.

### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**SAN DIEGO, CA /OCTOBER 28, 2019** - The inaugural team of ten for Athena Racing has been revealed! The young ladies participating in this groundbreaking extracurricular program are high school and gap year students pursuing STEM careers paths as automotive engineers, auto technicians, law enforcement, and professional race car drivers. They are a diverse and driven mix of Southern California talent.

Announcing the open application in August during #MotorsportAwarenessMonth resulted in articles being written in Hot Rod Magazine, The Drive, Today's Tech magazine and Modern Dealership magazine. The increased awareness drew an incredibly talented pool of entries.

Completing a rigorous application process similar to applying to a major university, those interested in the scholarship opportunity answered a series of questions, wrote a 750-word essay, and produced a 60-second video on Instagram showcasing their talents.

Those who were shortlisted for tryouts had to complete a panel interview with Hannah Grisham, Pro Driver, and Dani Phan, SDSU Aztec Racing President; participate in track chalk talk with Chris Nunes, Off-Road Pro Driver; and race against the clock in time trials on the K1 Carlsbad kart track.

"This is an innovative team of young ladies who understand the importance of intense training and the need to get your hands dirty in order to experience all aspects of the business," said Executive Director, Loxley Browne. "These are the game-changers who will be inventing, designing, and testing our modes of transportation for the future. By pushing a race car to its limit, building a car, and learning all aspects of business, they will be able to lead teams in whichever career path they choose."

Athena Racing's 2019-2020 team of ten are:

**Adeline** - a high school junior pursuing a career in Automotive Engineering

**Emily G** - a high school junior pursuing a career in Automotive Engineering

**Emily N** - a high school freshman pursuing a career as an Automotive Technician

**Izzy** - a high school senior pursuing a career as a Team Director

**Kailey** - a high school junior pursuing a career in High-level Law Enforcement

**Leslie** - a high school senior pursuing a career in Engineering in the Marines

**Marissa** - a Gap Year teammate pursuing a career as a Pro Driver

**Maddy** - a high school sophomore pursuing a career in Engineering

**Rosy** – a high school senior pursuing a career in Mathematics

**Stephanie** – a high school senior pursuing a career in Automotive Performance Engineering

"It's rare to see the motivation they have shown. That deserves every ounce of dedication we have," said Chris Hurst, Athena Racing's Driving Instructor. "I'm looking forward to being part of a team that breaks boundaries and focuses on results. It's a privilege to work with young people who are passionate about the sport, and I look forward to helping them grow in their pursuit of perfecting their craft."

As an extracurricular activity, inclusion in Athena Racing benefits the team members pursuing STEM careers by giving them real-life experience, which allows them to better understand and innovate for the future. The program provides hands-on experience, which allows for a better understanding of not only the theory but the application of these industries. The intensive one-year training in ten education tracks focuses on driving, mechanics, safety, leadership, marketing, public speaking, entrepreneurship, wellness, photography, and etiquette.

"This is a groundbreaking program that is exciting teachers and students. It provides another layer of training that will fully complete the foundation of knowledge that these young ladies need to compete in the real world," said Loxley Browne, Executive Director. "Because of our innovative approach to teaching Science, Technology, Engineering and Math subjects, we have amassed incredible support from the community. With more than 20 STEM education partners from our community, our outreach will touch K-16 students in all of Southern California and inspire students nationally."

After spending the day interviewing the applicants, Dani Phan, SDSU Aztec Racing President, said, "I was thoroughly impressed by the caliber of all of the applicants. I can't wait to see what the future holds for everyone involved with Athena Racing." Her influence as a role model and mentor to the team is showcasing the opportunities available for young ladies interested in engineering. Her time speaking one-on-one with the parents opened their minds to the different paths their daughters could take to attain their goals in the transportation industry.

The team will be in Thanksgiving and Christmas Parades around San Diego, signing autographs at the San Diego Auto Show on January 4, 2020, and will be volunteering with all of our community partners to bring more awareness to the career possibilities in the motorsports, automotive and transportation industries.

### **About Athena Racing:**

Athena Racing is a STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) education extracurricular nonprofit focused on providing training and mentorship to young ladies in high school interested in pursuing innovative careers in the transportation, automotive and motorsports industry.

**Visit [AthenaRacing.org](http://AthenaRacing.org) to learn more.**

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