

Awards Nominations

Important Dates:

- February 1st: Nominations start
- March 15st: Last day of nominations
- March 16 to March 28th: Judging
- April 1st: Finalists announced by Event Chair/Committee to Judges and handed off to the Ithaca Journal
- April 1-April 15: Finalists submit bios and photos to project committee
- May 1st: Event Night! 5:30 – 7:30 pm
- May 1st: Web pages/bio/photos up
- May 5th: Photos from event night up on the Web

F.A.Q:

Q. What is The Tompkins County 40 Under 40?

[ithaca Forward]'s first annual list of 40 emerging leaders who have achieved success in not-for-profit, business and especially our community before turning 40.

Q. Who is eligible?

Anyone under 40 who lives, works or goes to school full time in Tompkins County.

Q. What are the qualifications for a 40 Under 40 nominee?

First and foremost, we are looking for professional and personal excellence and/or success that stand apart from their peers. We also are interested community involvement and public service, as well as participation in trade groups, professional organizations, etc. And a technical point: all nominees must be no older than 39 as of June 30, 2008.

Q. Who will choose the 40 Under 40?

Selection of the final 40 is facilitated by select [ithaca Forward] Board Members and various community leaders represented as a panel of independent judges.

Q. How can I nominate someone for 40 Under 40?

For an online nomination form click [here](#). All nominations must be submitted online.

Q. Can I just call you or send you an e-mail with the name of the person I'd like to nominate?

No. We need a completed nomination form, including both your contact information and that of the person you are nominating.

Q. I want to nominate someone, but I would like to remain anonymous.

If you choose, we will not disclose your name as the nominator. However, we still need your contact information should we need more information or clarification.

Q. I want to nominate my boss, but would it be better if someone higher up nominated him? Can I nominate a family member?

You can nominate yourself, a client, a friend, a neighbor, a family member, your boss, an employee or an acquaintance. The most important thing is that you state a clear, community and/or business-oriented reason for the nomination. It is helpful for the nominator to be an objective position, but no one is disqualified based on who did the nominating.

Q. Does it help if many people nominate the same person?

No. In fact, it sends a negative impression if there is evidence of an organized campaign to send many nominations.

Q. In the nomination form, you ask why the person should be nominated and you have a 400-word limit. That isn't enough for me to tell all the accomplishments of my candidate.

Most of the information we need we can be described in 400 words. If you feel you need to send more info, call the Project Manager, Herbert Dwyer, at 607-330-5275.

Q. I would like to nominate someone, but they will turn 40 before June 30, 2008. Can I still nominate that person?

No. Nominations for anyone who does not meet the age requirement are discarded. We verify birthdates of finalists.

Q. Are [ithaca Forward] members, board members and committee members eligible to be nominated and selected?

Yes. However, [ithaca Forward] board members and committee members are not eligible to nominate themselves or each other.

Q. Are judges on the panel eligible for the award?

No.

Q. How does the nomination process work?

Nominations are reviewed to ensure all information is included. Then all nominees who have met our basic requirements are collected and disbursed in packets to our panel of judges (all of which will represent one of three areas- Young Professionals in General, High Schools, and Academia). The judges hold a series of meetings to determine who will be chosen to represent their individual areas. The panel in total will then choose from the finalists the award winners.

Q. Can I contact you during the winter to see how my nominee is doing in the judging process?

No. We don't give status reports.

Q. I want to be picked for 40 Under 40. Will it help to hire a public-relations firm?

It doesn't influence the judging. Some candidates may choose to use PR firms or internal corporate communications departments for help with the forms. However, content, not form is king.

Q. I have submitted my nomination form. Since then I have won an award. Can I add that to my form? I have had a change in my job title or employment, can I update my form?

Awards don't figure heavily in the judging, but feel free to let us know about it. On the other hand, it's very important we know about a change in employer or title.

Q. If I am chosen for 40 Under 40, my company's lawyer wants to review the story you write in advance.

We cannot do that.

Q. How will I know if I have been chosen for 40 Under 40? When will I hear from you?

All finalists will be notified by mail or phone call before being announced the Ithaca Journal. The final top 40 under 40 will be notified by mail or phone call before being named in the final Ithaca Journal issue. In addition, these 40 will be invited to a special event to receive the award.

Q. I was not picked for 40 Under 40. Can you tell me why?

With hundreds of candidates and an independent panel of judges, we won't be able to tell nominees specifically why they weren't chosen.