

The Athenian Executive Leadership Program

A leadership journey for local government executives ready to reconnect with their purpose, wrestle with the profession's hardest questions, and lead the next chapter of their careers.

Athenian is for you if:

You want to think about the legacy you're actually building.

You'd welcome colleagues who understand the weight you carry.

The work feels routine, and you're craving a real challenge again.

You're standing at a career crossroads and can't tell what's next.

You've lost touch with why you got into this profession.

You're exhausted and it's starting to show in how you lead.

What past participants felt, in their own words:

Rejuvenating	Life-Changing	Reflective	Fulfilling	Grateful
Thought-Provoking	Collaborative	Necessary	Inspirational	Sustaining

What the week actually holds:

The Athenian Oath

A shared commitment, deliberated together, that frames the whole experience and the year that follows.

Real problems, real answers

Participants build business-case responses to the societal dilemmas local government actually faces.

A safe space to be candid

Fifteen to twenty strangers get vulnerable fast — alumni consistently call it the most honest room they've been in.

A year-long connection

The relationships don't end at Lake City — cohorts stay in touch, and alumni return for the closing days of the next class.

Part retreat, part working laboratory — nothing about Athenian feels like a standard professional development experience.

Why not be part of Athenian 2027?

Who qualifies: Local government managers and assistant managers with 10+ years of continuing service — from growing cities to major metros, urban and rural.

Athenians are:

Curious	Sincere	Engaged
Passionate about public service	Adventurous	Restless for more

What alumni say:

“The program changed my life and renewed my commitment to the profession.”

Jeffrey A. Fiegenschuh, City Manager, City of Rochelle, Illinois

“A laboratory where introspection, creativity, fellowship and teamwork reveal new ways of leading.”

Monica Spells, ICMA-CM, Loudoun County, Virginia

An investment your organization can justify.

\$5,600 all-in

Covers lodging, meals, breaks and materials for the full week. Limited scholarships are available and some state associations may offer professional development scholarships.

It's succession planning

A week away builds your bench — it hands staff real responsibility and returns a sharper, re-committed leader to the organization.

Athenian 27

April 11–16, 2027 · Lake City, South Carolina

For more information use the QR Code on the right

