



2011 ALV Awards

Help select the Active Lifestyle Vehicle of the year

What are the ALV Awards?

Each year, elite athletes are asked to help select the vehicles – cars, trucks, crossovers and sport utilities – that best meet the needs of their active lifestyles, which may include carrying bicycles, kayaks, duffel bags, etc., and may require travel away from pavement to reach trail heads, launch and camping sites.

How does this happen?

The automakers enter their vehicles in various price and capability categories. There are two groups of judges – a national panel of automotive journalists and a team of athletes.

When and where does this happen?

In previous years, the athletes' ride-and-drive was held in San Diego.

This year, thanks to sponsorship from South Bend-based Tire Rack (other event sponsors include Michelin and AAA), the athletes' ride-and-drive takes place August 24 at The Tire Rack test track and on area roads, with a meet-and-greet dinner August 23 at the Gillespie Conference Center.

What you do:

Sign up, come to the dinner from 7-9 p.m. on August 23 and to The Tire Rack on August 24 from 8 a.m. until 4 p.m.

What you get:

You'll get enhanced driver training from The Tire Rack's experts (including laps on the test track in The Tire Rack's fleet of BMWs) and will evaluate and drive a group of vehicles in one of the several categories: urban, family, best value, luxury and green. (As time permits, you also may get to drive vehicles in other categories.)

You'll talk with representatives of the various automakers about what you expect from the vehicles you buy or lease. You'll also get breakfast and lunch, there will be some door prizes, including a set of tires and some hot laps around the test track with professional sports car racers.

How do you sign up?

Send an email to ninarussin@yahoo.com or ledsall@cox.net with your name, telephone number and discipline (runner, cyclist, triathlete, paddler, etc.).