

2026 IPPY AWARDS ENTRY FORM

TITLE INFORMATION

Title (and/or website if entering category 81)

Author

Publisher Name (as you'd like it to appear in results listing and publicity)

Category(s) Entered

(You may list multiple categories, but don't forget to pay the fee and send one book for each category)

Category(s) Entered

Regional Category (F= Fiction NF= Non-Fiction) and/or eBook Category (eBook/audiobook will need to be sent to info@ippyawards.com)

PLEASE REMEMBER TO SUBMIT ONE COPY OF BOOK FOR EACH CATEGORY ENTERED! (This is a postmark deadline.)

EARLY-BIRD DEADLINE 1: OCTOBER 15, 2025 _____ @ \$ 79 = _____ TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED _____

EARLY-BIRD DEADLINE 2: DECEMBER 17, 2025 _____ @ \$ 89 = _____ TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED _____

FINAL DEADLINE: MARCH 26, 2026 _____ @ \$ 99 = _____ TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED _____

CONTACT INFORMATION

Contact Person

Email Address (for judging updates)

Company / Publisher (for mailing purposes)

Mailing Address (for mailing packets if awarded a medal)

City, State, Postal Code, Country

Phone

PAYMENT METHOD

- ☐ Check or Money Order in U.S. funds payable to Jenkins Group

*To enter online and pay by credit card, visit:
www.ippyawards.com*

HOW TO SEND

Ship books with entry fee(s) and entry form(s) to:

Jenkins Group
1129 Woodmere Ave, Suite B
Traverse City, MI 49686

2026 IPPY AWARDS GUIDELINES

WHO MAY ENTER

Independent publishers, university presses, self-publishers and independent authors throughout North America, as well as overseas publishers and authors who publish books intended for an English speaking audience are eligible. Authors are welcome to enter their books themselves.

We define “independent” as:

- Independently owned and operated
- Operated by a foundation or university
- Long-time independents that became conglomerated but operate autonomously and publish fewer than 100 titles a year.

ELIGIBILITY

Books released with **2024-2026** copyrights are eligible. Entrants are to select the category and/or region (see category list) in which the book(s) should be judged.

Regional entries do best when their subject matter reflects the region in which they are entered. In other words, a book by an author from Quebec writing about a murder in Maine will do best in the Northeast U.S. regional category. Make your decision on whether a book will sell best at a regional level, and which region it will sell in.

eBooks are eligible in our eBook categories and can also be entered in regular subject categories, where they will be judged alongside print books.

The use of AI is discouraged and may factor into the judges’ final decision.

HOW TO ENTER

There are two ways to enter the awards:

1. **Online:** Enter and pay by credit card at ippyawards.com/enter.
2. **By Mail:** Print and fill out the entry form, then send it with your payment by check.

SUBMISSION & FEES

You may submit a title in multiple categories, but an entry fee is required for each category entered. Please send one copy of the title for each category. Mail submissions to:

Jenkins Group
1129 Woodmere Ave - Suite B
Traverse City, MI 49686

Entry Deadlines:

- **Early-Bird Deadline 1:** October 15, 2025 - \$79 per category
- **Early-Bird Deadline 2:** December 17, 2025 - \$89 per category
- **Final Deadline:** March 26, 2026 - \$99 per category

Once you submit your entry, we'll confirm it via email and keep you updated with judging progress and results announcements. So, be sure to provide a valid email address and add info@ippyawards.com to your contacts.



2026 IPPY AWARDS GUIDELINES

WHAT TO SEND

Include your online registration receipt or completed entry form and check (in U.S. funds) with your books, unless they are shipped directly from a distributor.

Submission Requirements:

- Submit one copy of the title per category
- **eBook files** (PDF only) can be uploaded after entry. If you have an issue with your upload, please email your PDF to digital@ippyawards.com with your order number in the subject line.
- **Audiobooks** can be entered as a gift code from your platform of choice after entry (audio files will not be accepted).

All books submitted become the property of Jenkins Group and will be donated after each award cycle. eBook files will be deleted after judging and the announcement of results. Judges will only see the book itself, so please don't send any press kits, reviews, bookmarks, etc.

DEADLINE

All entries must be submitted online or postmarked by the final entry deadline of **March 26, 2026**. A ten-day grace period allows books to arrive at our office by **April 9, 2026**, which is the start of judging.

JUDGING PROCESS

Judging will be based on the quality of content, design, and production with an emphasis on originality, innovation, and social relevance in each category. Our judging panel includes experts from the fields of editing, design, reviewing, bookselling, and library. Three to six medalists per category will be announced via email on **June 4, 2026** by 4 PM EST. Official results will go live on our website on **June 10, 2026** at 2 PM EST.

AWARDS & PRESENTATION

Gold, silver, and bronze medals will be awarded in each category. Each winning book receives a medal, a personalized certificate, and 20 sample seals. Additional award seals are available for medalists in rolls of 250 and 1,000. High-resolution versions of the medalist artwork are also available for purchase for book covers and promotional materials.

AWARD CEREMONY

All medalists will receive an email shortly after medalists are announced with details regarding the celebration date, time, and location.



2026 IPPY AWARDS CATEGORIES

GENERAL CATEGORIES

1. Fine Art
2. Performing Arts (Music/Dance/Cinema/Theater)
3. Photography
4. Architecture
5. Coffee Table Books
6. Popular Fiction
7. Literary Fiction
8. Short Story Fiction
9. Poetry – Standard
10. Poetry – Specialty
11. Anthologies
12. Juvenile Fiction
13. Young Adult Fiction – General
14. Young Adult Fiction – Fantasy
15. Fantasy
16. Science Fiction
17. LGBTQ+ Fiction
18. Erotica
19. Historical Fiction
20. Military/Wartime Fiction
21. Horror
22. Multicultural Fiction
23. Multicultural Fiction – Juv-Young Adult
24. Mystery
25. Suspense/Thriller
26. Religious Fiction
27. Romance
28. Novella/Short Fiction
29. Visionary/New Age Fiction
30. True Crime



2026 IPPY AWARDS CATEGORIES

GENERAL CATEGORIES CONT.

31. Graphic Novel/Drawn Book
32. Humor
33. Children's Picture Books (7 & Under)
34. Children's Picture Books (All Ages)
35. Children's Interactive
36. Juvenile-Young Adult Non-Fiction
37. Multicultural Non-Fiction – Juv-Young Adult
38. Multicultural Non-Fiction – Adult
39. Essay
40. Creative Non-Fiction
41. Autobiography/Memoir I (Celebrity/Political/Romance)
42. Autobiography/Memoir II (Coming of Age/Family Legacy)
43. Autobiography/Memoir III (Personal Struggle/Health Issues)
44. Biography
45. Aging/Death & Dying
46. Animals/Pets
47. Business/Career/Sales
48. Cookbooks- General
49. Cookbooks – Specialty
50. Current Events I (Political/Economic/Foreign Affairs)
51. Current Events II (Social Issues/Humanitarian)
52. Education I (Workbook/Resources)
53. Education II (Commentary/Theory)
54. Nature
55. Environment/Ecology
56. Finance/Investment/Economics
57. LGBTQ+ Non-Fiction
58. Gift/Specialty/Journal
59. Holiday
60. Health/Medicine



2026 IPPY AWARDS CATEGORIES

GENERAL CATEGORIES CONT.

61. History (U.S.)
62. History (World)
63. History (Oversized/Coffee Table)
64. Inspirational/Spiritual
65. New Age / Mind-Body-Spirit
66. Parenting
67. Popular Culture
68. Psychology/Mental Health
69. Sports/Fitness/Recreation
70. Reference
71. Religion (Eastern/Western)
72. Science
73. Self Help
74. Sexuality/Relationships
75. Transportation (Auto/Aviation/Railroad)
76. Travel – Essay
77. Travel – GuideBook
78. Women's Issues
79. Writing/Publishing
80. Book/Author/Publisher Website (note: Please enter website as a separate "Book Title")
81. Cover Design – Fiction
82. Cover Design – Non-Fiction
83. Cover Design – Non-Fiction Oversize
84. Best First Book – Fiction
85. Best First Book – Juv/YA
86. Best First Book – Non-Fiction
87. Book Series – Fiction
 - (note: Book Series category submissions require at least two volumes, with one volume's copyright/release date falling within the 2021-2023 copyright time frame. Send all volumes for judging but pay just one fee.)
88. Book Series – Non-Fiction
 - (note: Book Series category submissions require at least two volumes, with one volume's copyright/release date falling within the 2021-2023 copyright time frame. Send all volumes for judging but pay just one fee.)
89. Audiobook – Fiction*
90. Audiobook - Mystery/Thriller
91. Audiobook – N-F – Personal
92. Audiobook – N-F – Informational



2026 IPPY AWARDS CATEGORIES

REGIONAL CATEGORIES

(Awards for “Best Fiction” and “Best Non-Fiction” in each region)

Northeast – ME, VT, NH, MA, RI, CT, NY

Mid-Atlantic – PA, WV, VA, DE, MD, DC, NJ

Southeast – KY, NC, SC, GA, FL, TN

South – MS, LA, AR, TX, AL

Great Lakes – OH, MI, MN, IN, IL, WI

Plains – IA, MO, OK, KS, NE, SD, ND

West-Mountain – MT, WY, UT, CO, NM, AZ, ID, NV

West-Pacific – CA, OR, WA, HI, AK

Canada–East – ON, QB, NF, NB, NS, PE, Nunavut

Canada-West – BC, AB, SK, MB, NW Territories, Yukon

Asia/Australia/New Zealand-Aotearoa/Pacific Rim

Europe

EBOOK CATEGORIES

E1. Best Adult Fiction eBook

E2. Best Romance/Erotica eBook

E3. Best Mystery/Thriller eBook

E4. Best Sci-Fi/Fantasy/Horror eBook

E5. Best Adult Non-Fiction Personal eBook

E6. Best Adult Non-Fiction Informational eBook

E7. Best Juvenile/Young Adult Fiction eBook

E8. Best Children's Illustrated eBook

E9. Best Regional eBook – Fiction

E10. Best Regional eBook – Non-Fiction

