

AUTHOR'S GUIDE TO AWARDS



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INTRODUCTION

Publishing a book is a remarkable accomplishment. CONGRATULATIONS on reaching this significant milestone! Now comes an exciting opportunity to elevate your work and gain recognition through book awards.

This guide is designed to help you identify awards that align with your book's genre and themes, making it easier to find opportunities where your work can shine.

How to Use This Guide

- Awards are organized by genre to help you quickly locate those most relevant to your book.
- Some awards appear under multiple categories if they accept submissions across genres.
- Each entry provides the award name, due date, cost, website, and a full description to help you assess its suitability.

Important Notes

- You will need to submit your entries directly. This guide is intended to provide guidance, not submission services.
- Award deadlines and fees may change. Always verify details on the official websites before applying.
- Many awards have specific eligibility requirements, so please review these carefully.

We hope this guide empowers you to take the next step in your publishing journey with confidence and excitement. Your book deserves to be celebrated, and this is your roadmap to doing just that

CHILDREN

Bram Stoker Awards

Due Date: November 30 of each year

Cost: Free

Website: <https://bramstokerawards.horror.org>

Details: First Novel, Non-fiction, short fiction, long fiction, fiction collection, screenplay, anthology, novel, graphic novel/illustrated narrative, young adult novel/works for young readers

Coretta Scott King Book Awards

Due Date: December 1st

Cost: Free

Website: <https://www.ala.org/awards/books-media/coretta-scott-king-book-awards>

Details: for young adults and children by African American authors and illustrators that reflect the African American experience.

Children's Newbery Medal

Due Date: December 31st

Cost: Free

Website: <https://www.ala.org/alsc/awardsgrants/bookmedia/newbery>

Details: Children's books up to age 14

Newbery Medal

Due Date: December 31

Cost: Free

Website: <https://www.ala.org/alsc/awardsgrants/bookmedia/newbery>

Details: Mail one copy of the book to the award committee chair. Address information available upon completion of submission form.

CHILDREN

Caldecott Medal

Due Date: December 31st

Cost: Free

Website: <https://www.ala.org/alsc/awardsgrants/bookmedia/caldecott>

Details: Mail one copy of the book to the award committee chair. Address information available upon completion of the submission form

Foreword Indies

Due Date: January 15

Cost: \$199+

Website: <https://publishers.forewordreviews.com/awards/#what-to-expect>

Details: promote indie books and small presses to the magazine's large audience of librarians and booksellers. The top two winners each receive a \$1,500 cash prize and are promoted with the other finalists through press releases, events, articles, and social media to Foreword's list of over 35,000 industry connections

Purple Dragonfly

Due Date: Multiple dates

Cost: Varies

Website: <https://www.storymonstersbookawards.com/>

Details: Children's books up to age 14

John Newbery Medal

Due Date: December 31

Cost: Free

Website: <https://www.ala.org/alsc/awardsgrants/bookmedia/newbery>

Details:

CHILDREN

Randolph Caldecott Medal

Due Date: December 31st

Cost: Free

Website: <https://www.ala.org/alsc/awardsgrants/bookmedia/caldecott>

Details:

FAITH

The Christy Awards

Due Date: March 1- 31st

Cost: \$175

Website: <https://www.christyawards.com/>

Details: Written from a Christian worldview. Multiple categories

Nautilus Book Awards

Due Date: For 2026, submission begins on 9/9/25

Cost: \$95+

Website: <https://www.christyawards.com/>

Details: They accept entries in 35 subject categories, but their core values must be expressed. The book's message should express one or more of the Nautilus Core Values. These core values are Health/Wellness, Green Living and Earth sustainability, Spiritual Growth, and Social Change/Social Justice.

2026 Illumination Book Awards

Due Date: For 2026, submission begins on 9/9/25

Cost: \$99

Website: <https://www.christyawards.com/>

Details: The Illumination Book Awards honor the best Christian books that illuminate, inspire, and uplift readers with messages of faith, hope, and grace. With over 25 categories from Bible Study and Devotional to Christian Fiction and Romance, there's a category for your book.

FAITH

Christian Fiction: The Christy Awards

Due Date: March 1- 31st

Cost: \$175

Website: https://www.ecpa.org/page/christy_submissions2

Details:

Carol Awards

Due Date: For 2026, submission begins on 9/9/25

Cost: \$135

Website: <https://acfw.com/acfw-contests/carol-awards/>

Details:

INDIE

IndieReader Discovery Awards

Due Date: March 1- 31st

Cost: \$150

Website: <https://indiereader.com/the-discovery-awards>

Details: Every author who enters a title in the 2025 IR Discovery Awards will receive a verdict, written by an IndieReader reviewer and based on their assessment after reading the complete book. The verdict (should it be positive) is a great way to add credibility to your book as promotional copy or a blurb. The judges read all submissions and recommend the top six winners to Dystel, Goderich & Bourret for representation. The winners receive cash and other prizes based on the category won.

Foreword Indies Book of the Year Award

Due Date: January 15

Cost: \$119

Website: <https://publishers.forewordreviews.com/awards/>

Details: Promote indie books and small presses to the magazine's large audience of librarians and booksellers. The top two winners each receive a \$1,500 cash prize and are promoted with the other finalists through press releases, events, articles, and social media to Foreword's list of over 35,000 industry connections.

INDIE

Indie Excellence Awards

Due Date:

Cost: 75+

Website: <https://www.indieexcellence.com/>

Details: They select overall winners and also several finalists for each category, with sponsor prizes and cash prizes of \$500 up for grabs. Hard copy of book only.

The Independent Author Network IAN Book of the Year Awards

Due Date:

Cost: \$49

Website: <https://www.independentauthornetwork.com/book-of-the-year.html>

Details: Entry form to be filled out.

MEMOIR

Pulitzer Prizes

Due Date:

Cost: \$75

Website: <https://bdmentrysite.pulitzer.org/>

Details: Each year, Columbia University awards Pulitzer Prizes for books in six categories, including genre fiction, of \$15,000 each. (Drama and Music have a separate entry portal)<https://bdmentrysite.pulitzer.org/>

NON-FICTION

Pulitzer Prizes

Due Date:

Cost: \$75

Website: <https://bdmentrysite.pulitzer.org/>

Details: Each year, Columbia University awards Pulitzer Prizes for books in six categories, including genre fiction, of \$15,000 each. (Drama and Music have a separate entry portal)<https://bdmentrysite.pulitzer.org/>

Bram Stoker Awards

Due Date: November 30

Cost: Free

Website: <https://bramstokerawards.horror.org>

Details: First Novel, Non-fiction, short fiction, long fiction, fiction collection, screenplay, anthology, novel, graphic novel/illustrated narrative, young adult novel/works for young readers

Foreword Indies

Due Date: June 30

Cost: \$99+

Website: <https://publishers.forewordreviews.com/awards/#what-to-expect>

Details:

Autumn House Press

Due Date:

Cost: \$35

Website: <https://www.autumnhouse.org/submissions/>

Details:

NON-FICTION

The Chautauqua Prize for author

Due Date:

Cost: \$75

Website: <https://www.chq.org/things-to-do/education/literary-arts/chautauqua-prize/>

Details: Full-length books of fiction and narrative/literary nonfiction

National Book Awards

Due Date:

Cost: \$135

Website: <https://www.nationalbook.org/national-book-awards/submissions/>

Details: best Fiction, Nonfiction, Poetry, Translated Literature, and Young People's Literature.

Coretta Scott King Book Awards Round Table

Due Date:

Cost:

Website: <https://www.ala.org/csksbart/coretta-scott-king-book-awards-submission-form1>

Details: African American Authors of books for children and young adults. Picture Book, Fiction and Poetry, and Nonfiction.

Nautilus Book Awards

Due Date: September

Cost: \$95+

Website: <https://www.nautilusbookawards.com/>

Details: They accept entries in 35 subject categories, but their core values must be expressed

POETRY

Pulitzer Prizes

Due Date:

Cost: \$75

Website: <https://bdmentrysite.pulitzer.org/>

Details: Each year, Columbia University awards Pulitzer Prizes for books in six categories, including genre fiction, of \$15,000 each. (Drama and Music have a separate entry portal)<https://bdmentrysite.pulitzer.org/>

Kingsley Tufts Poetry Award

Due Date:

Cost:

Website: <https://arts.cgu.edu/tufts-poetry-awards/about/eligibility/>

Details:

Autumn House Press

Due Date:

Cost: \$35

Website: <https://www.autumnhouse.org/submissions/>

Details:

National Book Awards

Due Date:

Cost: \$135

Website: <https://www.nationalbook.org/national-book-awards/submissions/>

Details: best Fiction, Nonfiction, Poetry, Translated Literature, and Young People's Literature.

POETRY

Coretta Scott King Book Awards Round Table

Due Date:

Cost:

Website: <https://www.ala.org/cskbart/coretta-scott-king-book-awards-submission-form1>

Details: African American Authors of books for children and young adults. Picture Book, Fiction and Poetry, and Nonfiction.

Kate Tufts Discovery Awards

Due Date:

Cost:

Website: <https://arts.cgu.edu/tufts-poetry-awards/about/eligibility/>

Details:

SCIENCE

Nebula Awards

Due Date:

Cost:

Website: <https://nebulas.sfw.org/about-the-nebulas/how-to-participate-rules/>

Details: Non-members may make an eligible work available to members by sending an electronic copy to the Nebula Awards® Commissioner at nac@sfwa.org. The Nebula Awards® Commissioner will post the work to the appropriate sub-forum of the Fiction discussion area.

Seattle Worldcon 2025

Due Date:

Cost: \$35

Website: <https://seattlein2025.org/>

Details:

YOUNG ADULTS

Bram Stoker Awards

Due Date: November 30 of each year

Cost: Free

Website: <https://bramstokerawards.horror.org>

Details: First Novel, Non-fiction, short fiction, long fiction, fiction collection, screenplay, anthology, novel, graphic novel/illustrated narrative, young adult novel/works for young readers

Coretta Scott King Book Awards

Due Date: December 1st

Cost: Free

Website: <https://www.ala.org/awards/books-media/coretta-scott-king-book-awards>

Details: for young adults and children by African American authors and illustrators that reflect the African American experience.

Coretta Scott King Book Awards Round Table

Due Date: December 31st

Cost:

Website: <https://www.ala.org/cskbart/coretta-scott-king-book-awards-submission-form1>

Details: Picture Book, Fiction and Poetry, and Nonfiction.

2025 Moonbeam Children's book Awards

Due Date: Open

Cost: \$79

Website: https://secure.independentpublisher.com/cart/index.php?program_id=0

Details: 45 categories, picture book to young adult fiction

OTHER/ UNCATEGORIZED

Eric Hoffer Award

Due Date: January 31st

Cost: \$60+

Website: <https://hofferaward.com/>

Details: Multiple books in many categories and various press types are given prizes, "Hoffer" honors, and worldwide media exposure. The book awards are covered in the US Review of Books. Finally, award recognition is an excellent point-of-sale marketing tool.

LGBTQ+: Lambda Literary Awards

Due Date: Between September and November

Cost: \$65

Website: <https://www.ala.org/awards/books-media/coretta-scott-king-book-awards>

Details: for young adults and children by African American authors and illustrators that reflect the African American experience.

National Jewish Book Awards

Due Date:

Cost: \$170

Website: <https://www.jewishbookcouncil.org/NJBA>

Details: Submit in print form.

Spur Awards

Due Date:

Cost: Free

Website: <https://westernwriters.org/awards/spur-awards/>

Details: 4 print copies: 1 to the chair, 1 to each of 3 judges. Rules in the website.

OTHER/ UNCATEGORIZED

Poets & Writers

Due Date:

Cost: Various

Website: <https://www.pw.org/>

Details: This site has hundreds of Awards you can enter for

Axion Business Book Awards

Due Date:

Cost: \$99

Website: <https://axiomawards.com/enter>

Details: for young adults and children by African American authors and illustrators that reflect the African American experience.

Rubery Book Award

Due Date:

Cost: \$70

Website: <https://www.ruberybookaward.com/>

Details: Out of Britain. International Awards

Eric Hoffer Award

Due Date: 01/21/26

Cost: \$60-\$70

Website: <https://www.hofferaward.com/Eric-Hoffer-Award-registration.html#Deadline>

Details:

OTHER/ UNCATEGORIZED

International Book Awards

Due Date:

Cost: \$74

Website: <https://www.internationalbookawards.com/>

Details:

The Feathered Quill Book Awards

Due Date: August 1st

Cost: \$75-\$95

Website: <https://featheredquill.com/feathered-quill-book-awards/>

Details:

Mom's Choice Awards

Due Date:

Cost: Level 1 \$500, Level 2 \$1500

Website: <https://momschoiceawards.com/>

Details:

Book Excellence Awards

Due Date: December 31st

Cost: \$199

Website: <https://bookexcellenceawards.com/>

Details:

OTHER/ UNCATEGORIZED

The Page Turner Awards

Due Date: 30th December

Cost: \$55+

Website: <https://pageturnerawards.com/>

Details:

The Douglas Dillon Book Awards

Due Date: July 14th

Cost: \$75-\$95

Website: <https://www.academyofdiplomacy.org/news/call-for-submissions-aad-2025-douglas-dillon-book-award>

Details:

The 2025 International Book Awards

Due Date: March 31st

Cost: 74+

Website: <https://www.internationalbookawards.com/2026callforentries.html>

Details:

PEN America

Due Date:

Cost: 95+

Website: <https://pen.org/literary-awards/>

Details: