



OREGON BOOK AWARDS
2026 Guidelines

The finalists for the 2026 Oregon Book Awards will be announced in January 2026, and the winners will be announced at the Oregon Book Awards Ceremony in April 2026.

Submission Process for the 2026 Oregon Book Awards:

Work may be submitted by the author, publisher, producer, or any member of the public.

Work published between September 1, 2024 and August 31, 2025 is eligible.

The award for Graphic Literature is biennial and will be awarded in 2026. Please see separate guidelines for the Graphic Literature Award.

Applications include: online form, submission fee, and three copies of the nominated book.

- 1) Fill out the form online with required information.
- 2) Submit the application fee at <https://literary-arts.org/product/2026-oregon-book-awards-submission-fee/>
- 3) After you submit the application fee, please mail 3 copies of the nominated book to:
Alexa Winik
Oregon Book Awards
Literary Arts
716 SE Grand Avenue
Portland, OR 97214

Your application is not complete until you have submitted all 3 items listed above – the application form, the fee, and the 3 copies of the nominated book. Please note: books are not returned to authors at the end of the judging process. Literary Arts may request an additional copy of finalists' books in January.

Submission Deadline is Friday, September 5, 2025.

Oregon Book Awards are available for original work published or produced in the following categories:

- Poetry, including chapbooks of more than twenty pages in length.
- Fiction, including novels and short story collections.
- General Nonfiction, including biography, history, sciences, nature writing, landscape writing, and criticism.
- Creative Nonfiction, including autobiography, memoir, and personal essay.
- Children's Literature for younger readers, including picture books and early readers.
- Middle Grade and Young Adult Literature, including Middle Grade, Upper Middle Grade and Young Adult.

- The award for Graphic Literature is biennial and will be awarded in 2026. Please see separate guidelines for the Graphic Literature Award.

Eligibility Requirements

- Work must be written by an Oregon resident who resides in Oregon at least six months of the year at the address indicated on their application form. A resident who moves away from Oregon permanently after the submission deadline will be disqualified. Authors must be alive at the time of submission; a qualified resident who dies after submitting their book may receive a posthumous award.
- Books with more than one author are eligible if all authors are Oregon residents as described above.
- Self-published titles *are* eligible, with an ISBN.
- An ISBN is required for all titles (with the exception of scripts that are entered in drama).
- A title can be submitted in one genre only. The author or publisher that submits the book determines which genre to submit in.
- Books must have an original publication date between September 1, 2024 and August 31, 2025. A reprint of a book published in a previous award year is not eligible. In the case of a collected work, this timeframe applies to the publication as a volume, not of individual pieces.
- Works of translation are ineligible.
- Works containing AI-generated text without identification, presented as the author's own writing, are not eligible.
- Editors are ineligible.
- Anthologies containing work written by multiple authors are ineligible.
- All books for the genres listed here are judged for their writing, and the award is given to the writer.
- Work authored or published by Literary Arts staff, trustees or Programs for Writers Advisory Council members, as well as their immediate families, are precluded from consideration for Oregon Book Awards. Literary Arts staff, trustees, and Programs for Writers Advisory Council members are also precluded from serving as Oregon Book Awards or Oregon Literary Fellowship jurors and from receiving Oregon Literary Fellowships. Work authored by former Literary Arts staff, trustees or Oregon Book Awards & Fellowships Advisory Council members may be considered, provided that the staff member, trustee or Programs for Writers Advisory Council member resigned from their position at Literary Arts at least six months before the earliest submission date.
- In the event of a dispute regarding a title's eligibility, Literary Arts will make the final decision on eligibility.
- Literary Arts reserves the rights to refuse a submission for any reason.

Selection Process

Out-of-state judges, three in each genre, will be instructed to choose up to five finalists in each category, including a winner, using literary merit as the selection criterion. Literary Arts does not prescreen entries except to determine eligibility.