2024-2025 NOMINATION GUIDELINES

ABOUT

The Eugene and Marilyn Glick Indiana Authors Awards are a biennial program powered by Indiana Humanities and made possible by Glick Philanthropies. Every two years, the Awards recognize and celebrate the best books published by Indiana writers in the previous two years. Nominations for the 2026 Indiana Authors Awards open Aug. 7, 2025, and close Jan. 9, 2026.

AWARD DESCRIPTIONS

Awards will be given to books in up to nine categories. Authors may self-nominate or be nominated by another person or organization (e.g., agent, publisher, friend). The nominator decides which category is the best fit for the piece being nominated. The following descriptions provide guidelines for each of the categories. If you have questions about which category is best for your book, email info@indianaauthorsawards.org.

Books will be awarded in the following categories every two years:

- **Fiction:** This category includes literary fiction, novellas, and short story collections written by a single author.
- **Nonfiction:** Biography, memoir, creative nonfiction, and nonfiction written for a general, non-specialized audience will be considered in the nonfiction category.
- **Poetry:** Poetry book submissions should be written by a single author and longer than 48 pages.
- **Children's:** This category includes young children's books (ages 0-6).
- **Middle Grade:** This category includes all genres of books intended for middle grade readers (ages 6-12).
- **Young Adult:** This category includes all genres of books intended for young adult readers (ages 12-19).
- **Drama:** Plays and screenplays that have been published, produced, or performed will be considered.
- **Genre:** Science fiction, mystery, fantasy, western, horror, crime, and romance should all be nominated in the genre category.
- **Debut:** This award recognizes the best first book by an Indiana author in any category.

You may enter books in multiple categories if they qualify. However, please fill out separate nomination forms and send the requested number of books for each category the book is nominated in. For books for youth audiences, if you elect only to nominate the book in one relevant category, we suggest nominating it in the age-based category rather than the genre-based category (i.e. nominate a nonfiction book for middle grade readers in the middle grade category rather than the nonfiction category). For graphic literature, please nominate the book in the appropriate genre-based category (i.e. nominate graphic novels in fiction, graphic memoir in nonfiction, graphic novel of science fiction in genre, etc.).

LITERARY CHAMPION AND LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

Two additional awards will be given to authors for their legacy and contributions to Indiana's literary community.

Literary Champion: This award recognizes extraordinary contributions to the community of readers and writers in Indiana by an individual or organization. Literary champions may be writers, but may also include librarians, teachers, arts organizations, writing group organizers, and more. This award may be given to an individual or organization. The literary champion is nominated with an explanation of why the individual or organization is a good candidate for this award, along with no fewer than three letters of recommendation. Past winners include the Indiana Writers Center, JL Kato, and Tony Brewer.

Lifetime Achievement: This award recognizes an extraordinary body of work by a Hoosier author. Authors do not need to be current Indiana residents to be considered, but they must have significant connections to the Hoosier State, or the

subject matter of their works must display significant Indiana influence. This award is not given posthumously. Past winners include James Alexander Thom, Mari Evans, Dan Wakefield, James Madison, and Susan Neville.

ELIGIBILITY
Nominations for the 2026 Awards open Aug. 7, 2025. Books published between Jan. 1, 2024 and Dec. 31, 2025, are eligible for the Awards in 2026.

Nominated authors should be current full- or part-time residents of Indiana who have resided in the state for at least five (consecutive or non-consecutive) years. We will also consider books from authors with deep connections to the Hoosier State who might not currently live in the state. If you're not a current resident, you'll be asked upon applying to provide a description of why you consider yourself an Indiana author. Lifetime Achievement award nominees need not live in-state. For the Literary Champion award, special consideration is given to nominees currently living and working in-state.

Nominated books must have an assigned ISBN. Ebooks are eligible, but 5 paper copies must be submitted for consideration by the committee. In the case of a book written by multiple authors, all authors must meet the "Indiana connection" requirement in order for the book to be eligible. Anthologies are not considered unless all authors included are Indiana authors. For any questions about eligibility, please email info@indianaauthorsawards.org.

While awards are only given to authors with current residency or significant Indiana ties, the Indiana Authors Awards have great interest in sharing new books about Indiana. If you have a new book about Indiana that you would like to share for promotional purposes, please email info@indianaauthorsawards.org.

SUBMISSION
Nomination forms can be found at www.indianaauthorsawards.org. Be sure to select the correct nomination form for the intended category. When you complete the form, you will be asked to send five copies of the nominated book to:

Indiana Humanities
c/o Bronwen Carlisle
1500 N. Delaware St.
Indianapolis, IN 46202

Books submitted will not be returned to the sender. If book costs present a barrier to entry for the author or submitter, please email info@indianaauthorsawards.org to request a waiver. Requesting a waiver has no bearing on eligibility and will not be shared with any selection committee members.

SELECTION PROCESS AND TIMELINE
Three-person juries made up of subject-expert scholars, librarians, and writers review and select the winners. In any award cycle, the judges reserve the right to not select a winner if no candidate meets the criteria set by the judging committee. The decision of the judges shall be final, and no correspondence or discussion shall be entered into with the judges. Authors will be notified on or before August 1, 2026. Winners will be announced to the public in August 2026.

PRIZE INFORMATION
Winners of the Indiana Authors Awards receive a $5,000 prize (with the exception of the Literary Champion awardee, who receives $2,500) as well as a physical award crafted from Indiana limestone. In the case of a winning book co-authored by multiple Indiana authors, awardees would receive one physical award and one monetary prize to split. Illustrators are not eligible, so in the case of a book produced by an Indiana author and Indiana illustrator in collaboration, the physical award and prize money would go to the author. Indiana Authors Award winners may also designate a $500 gift to an Indiana library of their choice.

QUESTIONS?
Email: info@indianaauthorsawards.org