



# INDEPENDENT PUBLISHER BOOK AWARDS HONORING INDIE EXCELLENCE FOR OVER 25 YEARS

**Calling all publishers and authors!** We are proud to announce the 28th annual Independent Publisher Book Awards, conducted to honor the year's best independently published titles. We are now accepting entries for books with **2022-2024** copyrights. The contest is presented by Jenkins Group and our book marketing website, [IndependentPublisher.com](http://IndependentPublisher.com), headquartered in Traverse City, Michigan. We are proud to have hosted the "IPPYs" and supported the independent publishing movement for over 25 years!

The awards are intended to bring increased recognition to the thousands of exemplary independent, university, and self-published titles published each year. Since the inaugural contest in 1996, over 5,500 books have received "IPPY" Awards, and all the recognition, credibility, and increased sales that a book award can bring.

The IPPY Awards reward those who exhibit the courage, innovation, and creativity to bring about change in the world of publishing. Independent spirit and expertise comes from publishers of all sizes and budgets and books are judged with that in mind. Gold, Silver, and Bronze medals will be presented in the General categories, as well as 24 Regional fiction and non-fiction categories and 10 ebook categories.

Thanks for your participation, and best of luck!

Amy Shamroe, Awards Director

## GENERAL/REGIONAL CATEGORIES

General categories are open to all entrants, in fiction and non-fiction categories. Regional IPPYs will be awarded to the Best Fiction and Best Non-Fiction books in 12 different geographic regions. If your book is written with a regional focus, don't miss this opportunity to extend your exposure and increase your chances of winning an IPPY. Entry fee is just \$55 when adding a Regional entry to your General category entry. See pages 3 and 4 for full category lists.

Note: Children's picture books generally don't fare well in regional categories.

## EBOOK CATEGORIES

While we do accept ebooks in all general and regional categories, we also present gold, silver and bronze medals in ten ebook categories to acknowledge the importance of ebooks and their distinct format. Entry fee is just \$55 when adding an ebook entry to a regular print book entry, but fees are the same as general category fees when entering an ebook category only. See the list of ebook categories on page 4.

## OUTSTANDING BOOKS OF THE YEAR

All IPPY entrants are automatically considered; no extra effort is needed to enter. They will be chosen from the regular Award entries, nominated by judges. These selections recognize those who exhibit the courage and creativity necessary to take chances, break new ground and bring about change in the tradition of *Independent Publisher*.

# 2024 INDEPENDENT PUBLISHER BOOK 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.

## ELIGIBILITY

Books released with **2022-2024** 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.

## ENTRY FEES

Submission for more than one category is acceptable, but each requires a fee. Entry fees are per title, per category – see “Early-bird” entry fee schedule on order form. When entering a title into more than one category, please send a copy of the book for each category entered. Multiple entries can be sent in one package, and entry fees paid by check or money order can be combined into one check amount. Please include completed entry form or online registration receipt in the same package as the books.

**Note: Due to new banking policies, we only accept personal checks from outside the United States that are drawn from a U.S. currency account and have U.S. DOLLARS permanently printed on the check or money order.**

## SENDING YOUR BOOK/EBOOK/AUDIOBOOK

The final step of the online entry process is to print out your entry info receipt and mailing instructions. Send one copy of the book for each general and/or regional category entered, with the entry form or online receipt tucked inside the front cover. For example, when you enter two general categories and one regional category, please send three books. All books entered become the physical property of Jenkins Group and will eventually be donated to libraries and charities. Judges only get to see the book itself, so please don't send press kits, reviews, bookmarks, etc. as they will be discarded.

You will have the option to upload electronic submissions after you enter an ebook category and pay online. Audiobook submissions and ebook gifts should be sent to [digital@jenkinsgroupinc.com](mailto:digital@jenkinsgroupinc.com).

## DEADLINES

Early bird deadlines in August and November are designed to encourage early entries (see schedule on order form). All entries must be posted online or postmarked by the final deadline of March 16, 2024. We will confirm your entry via email and send periodic updates about judging and results announcement. Please add [notifier@jenkinsgroupinc.com](mailto:notifier@jenkinsgroupinc.com) [ippy@jgibookawards.com](mailto:ippy@jgibookawards.com) and [amys@jenkinsgroupinc.com](mailto:amys@jenkinsgroupinc.com) so we can stay in touch throughout the awards process.

## JUDGING PROCESS

Judging will be based on 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.

## RESULTS ANNOUNCEMENT

Three to six medalists per category will be named on about May 10th. Planning is underway for the 2024 ceremony; details to follow. All winners will receive medalist packets by mail.

## AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

Each medal-winning book will receive a **medalist packet** including a gold, silver or bronze medal, a personalized certificate, and 20 foil seals. Related publicity includes the awards event, online and social media advertising, and year-long exposure at IndependentPublisher.com.

# 2024 IPPY AWARDS GENERAL CATEGORIES

1. FINE ART
2. PERFORMING ARTS
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. URBAN FICTION
29. VISIONARY/NEW AGE FICTION
30. TRUE CRIME
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 N-F: JUV- YOUNG ADULT
38. MULTICULTURAL NON-FICTION ADULT
39. ESSAY
40. CREATIVE NON-FICTION
41. AUTOBIOGRAPHY/MEMOIR I (CELEBRITY/POLITICAL)
42. AUTOBIOGRAPHY/MEMOIR II (COMING OF AGE/FAMILY)
43. AUTOBIOGRAPHY/MEMOIR II (PERSONAL STRUGGLE)
44. BIOGRAPHY
45. AGING/DEATH & DYING
46. ANIMALS/PETS
47. BUSINESS/CAREERS/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
61. HISTORY (U.S.)
62. HISTORY (WORLD)
63. HISTORY - OVERSIZED
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
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
88. BOOK SERIES - NON-FICTION
89. AUDIOBOOK - FICTION
90. AUDIOBOOK - NON-FICTION
91. AUDIOBOOK - N-F - PERSONAL
92. AUDIOBOOK - N-F - INFORMATIONAL

See the Categories tab at [www.IPPYAwards.com](http://www.IPPYAwards.com) for more information on categories.

## 2024 IPPY AWARDS REGIONAL CATEGORIES

**NE** (North-East) ME, VT, NH, MA, RI, CT, NY  
**MA** (Mid-Atlantic) PA, WV, VA, DE, MD, DC, NJ  
**SE** (South-East) KY, NC, SC, GA, FL, TN (plus territories of PR and USVI)  
**S** (South) MS, LA, AR, TX, AL  
**GL** (Great Lakes) OH, MI, IN, IL, WI  
**MW** (Mid-West) MN, IA, MO, OK, KS, NE, SD, ND  
**WMT** (West-Mountain) MT, WY, ID, UT, CO, NM, AZ, NV  
**WP** (West-Pacific) CA, OR, WA, HI, AK  
**CE** (Canada–East) ON, QB, NF, NB, NS, PE, Nunavut  
**CW** (Canada–West) BC, AB, SK, MB, NW Territory, Yukon  
**ANZ** (Australia, New Zealand, Pacific Rim)  
**EURO** (All of Europe including UK, Scandinavia and all other islands)

**Regional entries on the entry form:**  
Please use the initials of your region, plus the letter F for fiction and NF for non-fiction on the entry form below.  
Example: a fiction book from Florida is SE-F; a non-fiction book from Quebec is CE-NF.

## 2024 IPPY AWARDS EBOOK CATEGORIES

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|---|--|
| E1. BEST ADULT FICTION EBOOK              | E6. BEST ADULT NON-FICTION INFORMATIONAL EBOOK |
| E2. BEST ROMANCE/EROTICA EBOOK            | E7. BEST JUVENILE/YOUNG ADULT FICTION EBOOK    |
| E3. BEST MYSTERY/THRILLER EBOOK           | E8. BEST CHILDREN'S ILLUSTRATED EBOOK          |
| E4. BEST SCI-FI/FANTASY/HORROR EBOOK      | E9. BEST REGIONAL EBOOK – FICTION              |
| E5. BEST ADULT NON-FICTION PERSONAL EBOOK | E10. BEST REGIONAL EBOOK – NON-FICTION         |

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### WHO ENTERS THE IPPY AWARDS?

All independent publishers are eligible, ranging from self-published authors to major university presses. About 2,000 publishers participate in the Awards each year, from every U.S. state, Canada, and English-speakers overseas.

### ARE AWARDS PROGRAMS WORTH THE MONEY AND EFFORT?

Entering your titles in awards programs does take time, money, and effort, but the pay-offs include increased visibility, credibility, P.R. value, personal satisfaction, and prestige. Awards are a great morale boost for all those involved, and they influence reviewers and buyers. An award seal on a book's cover increases retail sales.

### WHAT SETS THE IPPY AWARDS APART?

IPPY Award entrants have four ways to win: the General, Regional, Ebook and Outstanding Books of the Year (which all entrants are considered for with no extra fee). Award winners appear for an entire year on our website, [www.IndependentPublisher.com](http://www.IndependentPublisher.com), and are featured prominently in feature stories in our monthly newsletter, which goes out to over 15,000 subscribers worldwide, many of whom are agents, buyers, and librarians.

### IF I ENTER THE AWARDS ONLINE, HOW DO YOU JUDGE MY BOOKS?

We designed the online entry system to make entering the IPPY Awards more convenient, but you still have to ship the books to us. We suggest (but don't require) that you send a traceable package so you can confirm delivery of your entry. If possible, please include the online entry receipt or completed entry form with the book. We do send confirmation by email when your entry is received and processed by our team. If your book is ebook only and you only entered it in a General and/or Regional category, please email it as a PDF titled using the format "YourBookTitleAuthorName.pdf" to [digital@jenkinsgroupinc.com](mailto:digital@jenkinsgroupinc.com) with your IPPY entry number in the subject line.

### DO THE JUDGES READ EVERY BOOK FROM COVER TO COVER?

Book awards judges are very good at assessing a book's quality, much as a buyer at a bookstore or library determines whether or not to purchase. The further a book makes it into the judging process the more likely it will be read completely.

### CONTACT INFORMATION

Other questions? Send an email to: Amy Shamroe, Awards Director - [amys@jenkinsgroupinc.com](mailto:amys@jenkinsgroupinc.com)

# 2024 INDEPENDENT PUBLISHER BOOK AWARDS ENTRY FORM

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Book Title (and/or website if entering category 81)

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Author

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Publisher Name of Publishing Service Provider (e.g.- iUniverse, KDP Amazon, etc) as Would Be Listed on a Results Announcement

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General Categories (You may enter more than one, but add fees below and send one book for each category)

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Regional Category (F= Fiction NF= Non-Fiction) and/or Ebook Category (Ebook/Audiobook will need to be sent to [digital@jenkinsgroupinc.com](mailto:digital@jenkinsgroupinc.com))

**PLEASE REMEMBER TO SUBMIT ONE COPY OF BOOK FOR EACH CATEGORY ENTERED!**

**General and ONLY Regional:**

Early bird 1 – Open-October 14, 2023 \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$75 = \_\_\_\_\_

Early bird 2 – October 15-December 16, 2023 \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$85 = \_\_\_\_\_

Regular Price – Dec. 17, 2023-March 16, 2024 \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$95 = \_\_\_\_\_

**Add Regional or Ebook to General Category** \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$55 = \_\_\_\_\_

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Contact Person

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Email Address (This email address will receive all updates)

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Company / Publisher (for mailing purposes)

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Mailing Address (include Unit/Apt/Suite/Floor # if applicable)

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City, State, Postal Code, Country

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Telephone

## HOW TO SEND

Ship books with payment and entry form(s) to:  
IPPY AWARDS  
1129 Woodmere Ave – Suite B  
Traverse City, MI 49686

## METHOD OF PAYMENT

Check/Money order in U.S. Currency payable to:  
Jenkins Group  
One payment can be made for multiple  
categories and/or titles