

2026 MOONBEAM AWARDS ENTRY FORM

TITLE INFORMATION

Title

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)

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

EARLY-BIRD DEADLINE 1: MARCH 11, 2026

@ \$ 79 = _____

TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED _____

EARLY-BIRD DEADLINE 2: MAY 13, 2026

@ \$ 89 = _____

TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED _____

FINAL DEADLINE: AUGUST 27, 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

Telephone

PAYMENT METHOD

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

To enter online and pay by credit card, visit: www.moonbeamawards.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 MOONBEAM AWARDS GUIDELINES

WHO MAY ENTER

Authors, illustrators, publishers, and self-publishers of children's books written in English and Spanish are welcome to enter. Authors and illustrators may submit their own books.

ELIGIBILITY

Books published with a copyright date between **2024–2026** are eligible. While the contest is for published books, an ISBN is not required. Galley copies may be submitted if finished copies are not yet available. eBooks are eligible in our eBook categories and can also be entered in regular subject categories, where they will be judged alongside print books.

HOW TO ENTER

There are two ways to enter the awards:

1. **Online:** Enter and pay by credit card at moonbeamawards.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:** March 11, 2026 – \$79 per entry
- **Early-Bird Deadline 2:** May 13, 2026 – \$89 per entry
- **Final Deadline:** August 27, 2026 – \$99 per entry

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@moonbeamawards.com to your contacts.

2026 MOONBEAM 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 entered
- **eBook files** (PDF only) can be uploaded after entry. If you have an issue with your upload, please email your PDF to digital@moonbeamawards.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 **August 27, 2026**. A two-week grace period allows books to arrive at our office by **September 10, 2026**, which is the start of judging.

JUDGING PROCESS

Judging will be based on content, originality, design, and production quality, with an emphasis on innovation and dedication to children's health and literacy issues. Our panel includes experts from editing, design, reviewing, bookselling, and library fields. Three to five medalists per category will be announced via email on **October 8, 2026** by 4 PM EST. Official results will go live on our website **October 14, 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

The awards ceremony will be held on **November 7, 2026**, in conjunction with the Traverse City Children's Book Festival, a family-friendly event filled with activities to inspire children's love of books. The festival will take place at the historic Traverse City Opera House and coincide with Shop Your Community Day, ensuring high foot traffic. Medalists and their guests are invited to attend at no charge.

2026 MOONBEAM AWARDS CATEGORIES

GENERAL CATEGORIES

1. Board Book/Cloth Book
2. Alphabet/Counting Book
3. Activity Book 1 – Games, Arts & Crafts, etc.
4. Activity Book 2 – Educational, Science, History
5. Best Illustrator
6. Picture Book – Preschool
7. Picture Book – 4-8 Year Old
8. Picture Book – All Ages
9. Juvenile Fiction – Early Reader/1st Chapter books
10. Pre-Teen Fiction – General
11. Pre-Teen Fiction – Fantasy/Sci-Fi
12. Pre-Teen Fiction – Mystery
13. Pre-Teen Fiction – Historical
14. Pre-Teen Fiction – Mature Issues
15. Young Adult Fiction – General
16. Young Adult Fiction – Fantasy/Sci-Fi
17. Young Adult Fiction – Horror/Mystery
18. Young Adult Fiction – Historical
19. Young Adult Fiction – Mature Issues
20. Fiction – Religion/Spirituality
21. Children's Poetry
22. Non-Fiction – Picture Book
23. Non-Fiction – Chapter Book
24. Animals/Pets – Fiction
25. Animals/Pets – Non-Fiction
26. Social Activism
27. Comic/Graphic Novel
28. Religion/Spirituality
29. Holiday



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Children's Book Awards

2026 MOONBEAM AWARDS CATEGORIES

GENERAL CATEGORIES CONT.

- 30. Book with Merchandise (plush toy, etc.)
- 31. Spanish Language Book
- 32. Environmental Issues
- 33. Health Issues
- 34. Mind-Body-Spirit/Self-Esteem
- 35. Best First Book – Picture Book
- 36. Best First Book – Chapter Book
- 37. Best Book by Youth Author (under 18)
- 38. Best Book Series – Picture Book
- 39. Best Book Series – Chapter Book
- 40. Best Book Series – Non-Fiction
- (note: Book Series category submissions require two or more volumes per series, and one volume's copyright/release date must fall within the 2021-2023 timeframe)
- 42. Best Writer/Illustrator
- 43. Cultural Experience

EBOOK CATEGORIES

- E1. Children's Picture Book
- E2. Pre-Teen Fiction
- E3. Young Adult Fiction



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