

# 2026 MOONBEAM AWARDS **ENTRY FORM**

## TITLE INFORMATION

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Title

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Author

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Publisher Name (as you'd like it to appear in the results listing and publicity)

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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.)*

<b>EARLY-BIRD DEADLINE 1: MARCH 11, 2026</b>	_____	@ \$ 79 = _____	TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED	_____
<b>EARLY-BIRD DEADLINE 2: MAY 13, 2026</b>	_____	@ \$ 89 = _____	TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED	_____
<b>FINAL DEADLINE: AUGUST 20, 2026</b>	_____	@ \$ 99 = _____	TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED	_____

## CONTACT INFORMATION

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Contact Person

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Email Address (for judging updates)

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Company / Publisher (for mailing purposes)

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Mailing Address (for mailing packets if awarded a medal)

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City, State, Postal Code, Country

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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](http://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 may 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.

The use of AI is discouraged and may factor into the judges' final decision.

## HOW TO ENTER

There are two ways to enter the awards:

1. **Online:** Enter and pay by credit card at [moonbeamawards.com/enter](https://moonbeamawards.com/enter).
2. **By Mail:** Print and fill out the entry form, then send it with your payment by check.

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](mailto:info@moonbeamawards.com) to your contacts.

## FEES & DEADLINES

You may submit a title in multiple categories, but an entry fee is required for each category entered.

### 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 20, 2026 - \$99 per entry

All entries must be submitted online or postmarked by the final entry deadline of August 20, 2026. A two-week grace period allows books to arrive at our office by September 3, 2026, which is the start of judging.

## JUDGING PROCESS & ANNOUNCEMENT

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 (gold, silver, and bronze) will be announced via email on **October 1, 2026** by 4 PM ET. Official results will go live on our website **October 7, 2026** at 2 PM ET.



# 2026 MOONBEAM AWARDS GUIDELINES

## WHAT TO SEND

Submission requirements vary by category entered.

- **General Categories:** Choose the submission method that best showcases your work:
  - **Option 1** – Mail a Physical Copy: Send one copy of your title per category entered to the shipping address below. Be sure to print this page and include it with your book(s). If you are shipping your book(s) directly from a distributor, the printed page is not required. We will match your book to your entry in our system. Judges will only see the book itself, so please don't send any press kits, reviews, bookmarks, etc.
  - **Option 2** – Upload files (PDF only) after entry
- **eBook Categories:** Upload files (PDF only) after entry (physical will not be accepted).
- **Audiobook Categories:** Enter a gift code from your platform of choice after entry (audio files will not be accepted).
- **International Submissions:** We strongly recommend submitting an eBook over mailing a physical book to help avoid shipping delays and additional fees. All physical international shipments must be sent DDP (Delivered Duty Paid). Any package sent with duties or taxes due on delivery will be refused or returned to the sender.

### Mail submissions to:

Jenkins Group  
1129 Woodmere Ave – Suite B  
Traverse City, MI 49686

If you have an issue with your upload, please email your PDF to [digital@moonbeamawards.com](mailto:digital@moonbeamawards.com) with your order number in the subject line.

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.

## MEDALIST PACKETS

Each medalist receives a medal, a personalized certificate, and 20 seals to get started. Additional award seals are available in rolls of 250 and 1,000. High-resolution versions of the seal artwork are also available for purchase for book covers and promotional materials.

## AWARDS 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. Learning Order (Alphabet/Counting/Colors)
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



# 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)

41. Best Writer/Illustrator

42. Cultural Experience

43. Bilingual Picture Book

## EBOOK CATEGORIES

E1. Children's Picture Book

E2. Pre-Teen Fiction

E3. Young Adult Fiction



**Moonbeam**  
Children's Book Awards