

2026 New Mexico Book Awards



The purpose of the **New Mexico Book Awards** is to uncover and honor the best in New Mexico books!

Entries in the NM Book Awards will be judged by booksellers, librarians, teachers, authors, publishers, agents, and avid readers.

Eligibility

Open to authors, designers, publishers, and publicists anywhere. Books must have a **direct creative connection to New Mexico or the greater Navajo Nation** (for example, author, publisher, subject, cover design). Books with a publication date or copyright date in 2024 or 2025 (between January 1, 2024 and December 31, 2025) are eligible. Print books written in English and/or Spanish are accepted. Winning books of a previous New Mexico Book Award are not eligible for re-submission; others may be re-submitted. Submission of a single book to multiple categories is accepted. Multiple books by a single entrant are accepted. Judges are eligible to enter but may not judge in their entry category. Books created using generative artificial intelligence (AI) are not eligible.*

Requirements

Each title must include the Entry Form (one form for multiple categories), payment of the entry fee, and three (3) copies of the print book being entered. Add one (1) additional print copy for each additional category entered. The entry fee is \$50 per entry per category. **All entries must be postmarked no later than Friday, May 8, 2026.**

Please use one form for each title being entered. All fields are required. Indicate all categories being entered on this form.

Title of Book _____
Author(s) _____
Publication/Copyright Date _____
Publisher _____
Name of Person Submitting _____
Connection to Book (if not the author) _____
Mailing Address _____

Phone _____
Email _____
Author City & State (if different from address) _____

Circle *all* of the categories you are entering:

- | | |
|---|--------------------------------------|
| 1. Anthology | 23. Self-Help & Guides |
| 2. Anthropology/Archaeology | 24. Sports & Recreation |
| 3. Arts (fine art, music, or photography) | 25. Travel |
| 4. Autobiography & Memoir | 26. True Crime |
| 5. Biography | 27. Fiction – action and adventure |
| 6. BIPOC Author or Subject | 28. Fiction – cozy mystery |
| 7. Business & Career | 29. Fiction – crime |
| 8. Coffee Table Book | 30. Fiction – fantasy |
| 9. Cookbook/Gardening/Crafts/Hobby/Home | 31. Fiction – historical |
| 10. Debut Book by Author or Publisher | 32. Fiction – literary |
| 11. Health (mind/body/spirit) | 33. Fiction – mystery |
| 12. History | 34. Fiction – romance |
| 13. Humor | 35. Fiction – satire |
| 14. LGBTQIA+ Author or Subject | 36. Fiction – sci-fi |
| 15. Multicultural | 37. Fiction – short story collection |
| 16. Nature/Environment/Animals/Pets | 38. Fiction – thriller/suspense |
| 17. Nonfiction – general | 39. Young Adult (high school) |
| 18. Parenting & Family | 40. Middle Grade (grades 3-8) |
| 19. Philosophy/Religion/New Age | 41. Young Readers (grades 1-3) |
| 20. Poetry | 42. Children’s Picture Book |
| 21. Poetry – anthology | 43. Cover Design (6x9 or smaller) |
| 22. Political & Current Events | 44. Cover Design (larger than 6x9) |

This entry is from/contains: (check all that apply)

- a New Mexico author or designer (must currently live in NM)
 a New Mexico publisher or publicist
 a book or cover that is either set in New Mexico or is about NM

***AI Criteria:** Book content should be created by a human and not generated by AI. Minimal use of AI-assistance tools, such as AI applications that check spelling/grammar or for brainstorming/research, is acceptable. Book covers entered into a Cover Design category should be designed by a human and not wholly generated by AI. A human designer using AI technologies as a tool to assist in the creation of artwork for the cover is acceptable, provided the human artist has control over the final artwork and the artwork substantially comprises human creation.

2026 ENTRY FEES

_____ of categories
X \$50.00 (multiply by \$50 per category)
\$ _____ TOTAL

Pay with check made out to: New Mexico Writers
or
Pay online at: nm-book-awards.square.site

All entries must include *all* of the following:

1. Entry Form (one for each entry)
2. Entry Fee (check sent with entry or paid online at nm-book-awards.square.site)
3. Three (3) copies of the print book being entered. Add one (1) additional print copy for each additional category entered.

Send entries by **May 8, 2026** to: New Mexico Book Awards
1933 San Mateo Blvd NE, PMB#192
Albuquerque, NM 87110

Please email nmbookawards@nmwriters.org with your NM Book Awards questions.