



Call for Entries: 18th Annual Independent Publisher Book Awards

"Recognizing Excellence in Independent Publishing"

Calling all independent authors and publishers! We are proud to announce the 18th annual **Independent Publisher Book Awards**, conducted to honor the year's best independently published titles. Celebrating our 18th anniversary this year, we are now accepting entries for books with **2012-2014 copyrights** or **released between July 1, 2012 and March 15, 2014**. The contest is presented by Jenkins Group and our book marketing website, *IndependentPublisher.com*, headquartered in Traverse City, Michigan.

The Independent Publisher Book Awards were conceived in 1996 as a **broad-based, unaffiliated awards program open to all members of the independent publishing industry**, and are open to independent authors and publishers worldwide who produce books written in English and that are intended for the North American market. We define "independent" as 1) independently owned and operated; 2) operated by a foundation or university; or 3) long-time independents that became incorporated but operate autonomously and publish fewer than 50 titles a year.

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 5,000 books have received "IPPY" Awards, and all the recognition, credibility, and increased sales that a book award can bring. Entry fees range from the early-bird fee of \$75 to \$95 when you enter closer to our final deadline of March 15th, 2014. Regional and E-Book category entries are just \$55 when added to a national category entry.

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 awarded to winners in 76 fiction and non-fiction national subject categories, 22 regional categories, and ten E-Book categories.

The 9th Annual Regional IPPY Awards: IPPYs will be awarded to the Best Fiction and Best Non-Fiction Books in eight U.S. regions, two Canadian regions, and the Australia/New Zealand region. If your book is written or published with a regional focus, don't miss this opportunity to extend your exposure and increase your chances of winning an Independent Publisher Book Award. Entry fee is just \$55 when adding a regional entry to your national category entry. Note: children's picture books generally don't fare well in these categories.

The 3rd Annual E-Book Awards: To acknowledge the growing importance of e-books in our fast-changing business of publishing and bookselling, we've added an e-book division to the IPPY Awards. This year we will accept e-books in all categories, but will also present ten e-book awards. Entry fee is just \$55 when adding an e-book entry to a regular print book entry; fees are the same as National category fees when entering an e-book category only. E-Book categories are: **Best Adult Fiction E-Book; Best Romance/Erotica E-Book; Best Mystery/Thriller E-Book; Best Sci-Fi/Fantasy/Horror E-Book; Best Non-Fiction Personal E-Book (Self-Help, Memoir, Inspirational, etc.); Best Non-Fiction Informational E-Book (Business, History, Parenting, etc.); Best Juvenile/Young Adult Fiction E-Book; Best Children's Illustrated E-Book; Best Regional E-Book - East and Best Regional E-Book - West.**

E-Book and Audiobooks Eligibility and Submission

We do accept both e-books and audiobooks in our regular subject categories, and they may be submitted electronically in any commonly used format. Send in just one format and file name should include book title.

Please send all electronic submissions to awards@bookpublishing.com with “IPPY E-Book Entry” or “IPPY Audio Entry” in the subject line.

Outstanding Books of the Year – all IPPY entry entrants are automatically considered: For 30 years our mission at *IndependentPublisher.com* has been to recognize and encourage the work of publishers who exhibit the courage and creativity necessary to take chances, break new ground and bring about change, not only to the world of publishing, but to our society, our environment, and our collective spirit. One book in each of the following categories will receive a special award for Outstanding Book of the Year:

**Independent Spirit Award – Independent Voice Award – Most Original Concept
Most Likely to Save the Planet – Most Outstanding Design -- Best Book Arts Craftsmanship
Peacemaker of the Year – Outstanding E-Book Achievement**

These winning titles may or may not be medalists among the regular 76 national categories or the regional and e-book competitions. No extra effort is needed to enter; they will be chosen from the regular Award entries, nominated by judges during the judging process. Categories are subject to revision.

2014 INDEPENDENT PUBLISHER BOOK AWARDS GUIDELINES

Who May Enter

Independent, university, small press, self-publishers and independent authors throughout North America and overseas authors and publishers who publish books intended for the American market. Authors are welcome to enter their books themselves.

Eligibility

Books that are published with a 2012-2014 copyright or that were released between July 1, 2012 and March 15, 2014 are eligible. Publishers are to select the category and/or region (see category and region list) in which the book(s) should be judged. Regional entries do best when their subject matter reflects the region in which they're entered. In other words, a book by an author from Quebec writing about a murder in Maine will do best in the North-East U.S. region. Make your decision on whether a book sells best at a regional level, and which region it sells in.

Submission for more than one category is acceptable. **Submit one copy of the title per category and per region.** For example, when you enter two categories and one regional competition, please send three books. Please send all electronic submissions to awards@bookpublishing.com with “IPPY E-Book Entry” in the subject line. All books entered become the physical property of Jenkins Group and will eventually be donated to libraries and charities.

Entry Fees (per title, per category – see “Early-bird” entry fee schedule below.)

Please include completed entry form or online registration receipt in the same package as the books. When entering a title into more than one category, please send one 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.

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.

What to Send

Send one copy of the book for each category entered, with the entry form tucked inside the front cover. Judges only get to see the book itself, so please don't send press kits, reviews, bookmarks, etc. as they will be discarded.

Judging Process

Judging will be based on quality of content, originality, design, and production with emphasis on innovation and social relevance. Our judging panel includes experts from the fields of editing, design, reviewing, bookselling and library.

Medal Announcement

Three to five medalists per category will be named on about April 30th; medals to be presented on May 28th during an awards ceremony in New York, on the eve of the BookExpo America convention. All medalists and one guest may attend the awards ceremony at no charge; additional guests for a fee. Those not attending will receive medalist packets by mail.

Deadlines

Early-bird deadlines in October and January are designed to encourage early entries (see schedule below).

All entries must be posted online or postmarked by the final deadline of March 15, 2014. We will confirm your entry via email. Please make sure we are on your “white list” of email contacts so we stay in touch throughout the awards process.

Awards and Recognition

Each announced medal-winning book will receive a gold, silver or bronze medal, a personalized certificate, and 20 foil seals. Related publicity includes the awards event, a print and online advertising campaign (in 2013 ads ran at *Publishers Weekly* and *Shelf Awareness*), and year-long exposure at IndependentPublisher.com, Amazon.com and other publishing and bookselling websites.

2014 NATIONAL CATEGORIES

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| <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Fine Art2. Performing Arts
(Music/Dance/Cinema/Theater)3. Photography4. Architecture5. Popular Fiction6. Literary Fiction7. Short Story Fiction8. Anthologies9. Juvenile Fiction10. Young Adult Fiction11. Fantasy/Science Fiction12. Gay/Lesbian/Bi/Trans Fiction13. Historical Fiction14. Military/Wartime Fiction15. Horror16. Multicultural Fiction17. Multicultural Fiction – Juv-Young Adult18. Mystery/Cozy/Noir19. Suspense/Thriller20. Religious Fiction21. Romance22. True Crime23. Visionary Fiction24. Children’s Picture Books (7 & Under)25. Children’s Picture Books (All ages)26. Children’s Interactive
(Activity, Audio, CDRom, etc.)27. Juvenile-Young Adult Non-Fiction28. Multicultural N-F Juv-Young Adult29. Multicultural Non-Fiction Adult30. Essay/Creative Non-Fiction31. Autobiography/Memoir I
(Celebrity/Political/Romance)32. Autobiography/Memoir II (Coming of Age/
Family Legacy/Travel)33. Autobiography/Memoir III (Personal
Struggle/Health Issues)34. Biography35. Aging/Death & Dying36. Animals/Pets | <ol style="list-style-type: none">37. Business/Career/Sales38. Coffee Table Books39. Cookbooks40. Current Events I (Political/Economic/Legal/Media)41. Current Events II
(Social Issues/Public Affairs/Ecological/Humanitarian)42. Current Events III (Foreign Affairs/Military)43. Education I (Workbook/Resource)44. Education II (Commentary/Theory)45. Environment/Ecology/Nature46. Erotica47. Finance/Investment/Economics48. Gay/Lesbian/Bi/Trans Non-Fiction49. Gift/Specialty/Journal50. Holiday51. Health/Medicine/Nutrition52. Graphic Novel/Drawn Book – Humor/Cartoon53. Graphic Novel/Drawn Book – Drama/Documentary54. History (U.S.)55. History (World)56. Home & Garden57. How-To (Crafts/Hobby/Industrial Arts)58. Humor59. Inspirational/Spiritual60. New Age/Mind-Body-Spirit61. Parenting62. Poetry63. Popular Culture64. Psychology/Mental Health65. Sports/Fitness/Recreation66. Reference67. Religion (Eastern/Western)68. Science69. Self Help70. Sexuality/Relationships71. Transportation (Auto/Aviation/Railroad, etc.)72. Travel – Essay73. Travel - Guidebook74. Women’s Issues75. Writing/Publishing76. Book/Author/Publisher Website |
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E-Book Categories:

E1. Best Adult Fiction E-Book
E2. Best Romance/Erotica E-Book
E3. Best Mystery/Thriller E-Book
E4. Best Sci-Fi/Fantasy/Horror E-Book
E5. Best Adult Non-Fiction Personal E-Book

E6. Best Adult Non-Fiction Informational E-Book
E7. Juvenile/Young Adult Fiction E-Book
E8. Best Children's Illustrated E-Book
E9. Best Regional E-Book - East (of the Mississippi)
E10. Best Regional E-Book - West

2014 REGIONAL COMPETITION CATEGORIES and REGIONS

Gold, silver and bronze medals will be given for "Best Fiction" and "Best Non-Fiction" in each region.

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, AL
S (South) MS, LA, AR, TX, TN
GL (Great Lakes) OH, MI, IN, IL, WI
MW (Mid-West) MN, IA, MO, OK, KS, NE, SD, ND
WM (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
AUS (Australia, New Zealand)

Regional entries on the entry form:

Please use the initials of your region, plus the number 1 for fiction and 2 for non-fiction on the entry form below. Example: a fiction book from Florida is SE1; a non-fiction book from Quebec is CE2.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Who Enters the IPPY Awards?

All independent publishers are eligible, ranging from self-publishers to major university presses. About 2,000 publishers participate in the Awards each year, from every U.S. state, Canada, and English-speaking countries overseas. The 2013 IPPY Awards attracted 5,200 total entries; winners came from 44 U.S. states plus the District of Columbia, seven Canadian provinces, and ten countries 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 seals on a book's cover increases retail sales.

What sets the IPPY Awards Apart?

IPPY Award entrants have four ways to win: the National, Regional, E-Book 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, and are featured prominently in feature stories in our monthly newsletter, which goes out monthly 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 trackable package, or include a self-addressed post card to help us confirm receipt of your entry. Please include the online entry receipt with the book, or a note listing contact and category information. We do send confirmation by email when your entry is received and processed.

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, especially in fiction categories, the more likely it will be read completely.

Any other questions? Send an email to Jim Barnes, Awards Director - jimb@bookpublishing.com

Visit the IPPY Awards online at <http://www.independentpublisher.com/ipland/IPAwards.php>

2014 IPPY AWARDS ENTRY FORM (Please fold and insert inside the front cover of each book entered)

Book Title – or web address if entering the Book/Author/Publisher Website category

Author

Publisher Name or Publishing Service Provider (as you'd like it to appear in publicity)

National Category(s) (You may list multiple categories, but don't forget to send a book for each category entered)

Regional Category (1 = Fiction 2 = Non-Fiction - Examples: NE 1; AUS/NZ 2) and/or E-Book Category (E-1 through E-10)

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

National Entries (July 1 through October 12, 2013) _____ @ \$75 = _____

(October 13, 2013 through Jan. 25, 2014) _____ @ \$85 = _____

(January 26 through March 15, 2014) _____ @ \$95 = _____

Add Regional Entry (per title, per category) _____ @ \$55 = _____ (All checks and money orders

Add E-Book Entry (per title, per category) _____ @ \$55 = _____ must be in U.S. funds)

Regional or E-Book Entry Only – (Same as national rates, \$75-\$95) _____ @ _____ = _____

(Note: for the \$55 “add-on” fee to apply, you must have also entered the title in a full-priced category)

Total: \$ _____

Contact Person

Email Address (required to receive entrant and results updates)

Company

Address

City, State, Postal Code

Telephone

Method of Payment:

Check/Money order in U.S. Currency payable to *Jenkins Group*

To enter with credit card, visit our online entry page:
www.IndependentPublisher.com/ipland

How to Send

Ship books with entry fee(s) and entry form(s) to:

**IPPY Awards 2014
Jenkins Group
1129 Woodmere Ave – Suite B
Traverse City, MI 49686**