

The YMCA CNY Book Awards

Sponsored by the YMCA's Downtown Writers Center

Nomination Form for 2025 Titles

Postmark Deadline: January 15, 2026

Award Categories: Fiction, Poetry, Non-Fiction, Children's Books

Prizes: An award plaque, along with a check for \$350, is provided to the winner in each genre.

Eligibility Requirements:

- Books must have been published between January 1, 2025 and December 31, 2025. If your book fell slightly before this range, and was not nominated as a 2024 title, contact us.
- Nominated authors must live in one of the following counties: Seneca, Tioga, Tompkins, Cayuga, Oswego, Onondaga, Cortland, Broome, Chenango, Madison, Oneida, Lewis, Jefferson.
- Books may be nominated by the author, their publisher, or any resident of the counties above.
- Two copies of the nominated book (actual books, not photocopies or print-outs), and an entry fee of \$15 (check or money order made payable to "YMCA") must be included with this form. Incomplete nominations will not be considered.
- Works published solely in electronic formats are not eligible.
- Books with more than one author are eligible, so long as one author meets the requirements.
- Literary journals and other periodicals are not eligible.
- There is no minimum page count; chapbooks and similar "short" books are eligible.

The CNY Book Awards Reception: The Awards Reception will be held in Fall 2025, at a date and location TBD. Although attendance at the Reception is not required for recognition, we hope that all nominated authors will plan to attend... each nominated author receives free admission to the Reception, and may purchase additional tickets at a discount. All nominated authors and presses will be notified of the date and time of the Reception when that information is available.

NOMINATION FORM

Author Name: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Address (street, city, zip); _____

Book Title: _____

Genre (please circle): fiction nonfiction poetry children's book

ISBN#: _____ Publisher: _____

Publisher Contact Name: _____

Publisher Email: _____

**Please send form, payment, and books to:
YMCA, Attn: The Writers Voice, 340 Montgomery St., Syracuse, NY 13202.**

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FAQ

If I am from one of the eligible counties, but am not a current resident, am I eligible? No, you must be a current resident of the eligible county.

If I am the author of multiple eligible books, can I be nominated more than once? Absolutely. Please use a separate nomination form for each title, and be sure to include a separate entry fee for each nomination.

My book was published directly to Kindle / Nook / etc. Am I eligible? Books must have been published in a physical print edition to be eligible.

My book is self-published. Am I eligible? Absolutely! In fact, self-published titles have even been named as finalists in several past years of the Awards.

Are chapbooks eligible? Yes, chapbooks may be nominated for the Awards.

When/Where is the Awards Reception? The Awards Reception will be held in Fall 2026. It's a great party, and each nominee gets a free ticket! More details will be available closer to the event.

Are winners notified before the Awards Reception? No. Both winners and finalists are announced for the first time at the Reception, and no one is notified ahead of time.

Who are the judges? Judges for this year's Awards will not be announced until the Awards Reception. As always, they will be terrific authors from outside the CNY community, to help insure that judging is as impartial as possible.

I edited a book (for example, a collection of stories or essays by multiple authors). Is it eligible? Yes, provided that (1) a lead editor resides in the eligible region, and (2) that the eligible editor has at least one piece of writing in the book (an introduction, essay, poem, etc.). Please check with us if you are unsure.

My question isn't answered here!

Sorry! Give director Phil Memmer a call at (315) 474-6851 x328, and we'll do our best to answer it for you.