



LIBRARY OF VIRGINIA

2025 Virginia Literary Awards Nomination Guidelines

Eligibility

Books eligible for the 2025 Virginia Literary Awards must have been written by a Virginia author or, for nonfiction books, have a Virginia-related theme. Virginia authors are defined as writers meeting one or more of the following qualifications: native-born Virginians, authors whose permanent residence is in Virginia, and authors who spent their formative years in Virginia and are widely identified as Virginians.

The following types of books are not eligible for the awards: reference works, anthologies, documentary editions, essay and short-story collections, photographic books, self-help books, “how to” books and self-published books.

Any individual, organization or company may nominate books to be considered for these awards. Each year’s awards honor books written in the previous calendar year. Thus, entries for the 2025 awards must have been published and distributed for the first time between Jan. 1 and Dec. 31, 2024.

Categories

Entries can be submitted for the following categories: Fiction, Nonfiction, Poetry or Children’s Literature. For Children’s Literature, picture books and middle-grade works (recommended reading levels of up to age 12) of both fiction and nonfiction are eligible.

Procedure

Entry forms can be submitted online. If you would like to nominate a book using an alternative method, please contact mary.jordan@lva.virginia.gov or call 804.692.3813.

Publishers should submit five copies of each book nominated to the Library of Virginia Foundation, 800 East Broad Street, Richmond, VA 23219.

The Library of Virginia Foundation, as part of its management of the adjudication process, will request adjudication copies of eligible books nominated by interested readers if needed.

Deadline

The deadline for entries is **March 1, 2025**.

Judges and Judging

Independent panels of judges will consider all entries. Awards will be granted at the discretion of the panel. Panel members will represent a broad spectrum of expertise in writing and publishing. Entries will be judged principally on the quality of the writing, with organization and interpretation also playing roles in the decision.

Announcement of Finalists

Finalists in each category will be notified by Aug. 1, 2025.

Special Notes

No entry fee is required.

For more information, please call 804.692.3813.