

Guidelines for Competition

Eligibility Books eligible for the Library of 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, children's and juvenile literature, photographic books, self-help books, and "how to" 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 2023 awards must have been published and distributed between January 1 and December 31, 2022.

Categories Entries can be submitted for the following categories: Fiction, Nonfiction, or Poetry.

Procedure Entry forms can be submitted online or completed as an interactive PDF and mailed to:

The Library of Virginia Literary Awards
Attn: Taylor Melton
800 East Broad Street
Richmond, Virginia 23219

Publishers should submit four copies of each book nominated.

Deadline The deadline for entries is February 10, 2023. The completed entry form and books must be on hand prior to that date. Entries will be forwarded to judges on receipt, so please enter as soon as possible.

Judges and Judging The Library of Virginia, as part of its management of the adjudication process, will request adjudication copies of eligible books nominated by interested readers.

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 a role in the decision.

Announcement of Finalists Finalists in each category will be notified by August 1, 2023.

Special Notes Entries must be received by February 10, 2023.
No entry fee is required.
For more information, please call 804.692.3535.



LIBRARY OF VIRGINIA

800 East Broad Street ■ Richmond, Virginia 23219

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