

The Southern Pen Book Shop

2019 Georgia Independent Author of the Year Award

This award is **not affiliated** with the Georgia Writers Association or any Writer's club or group.

Authors may submit a work that fits one of the following publishing criteria:

Independent Author: any author that has published work via self-publishing, the use of a small press, vanity press, or hybrid publisher. Authors may have invested their own capital in the production of their works.

Small Press: a publisher that is not a part of a large publishing conglomerate or imprint. A small press may be part of an educational system such as a university or college. Authors may or may not be financially responsible for any publishing costs.

Vanity Press or Subsidiary Publisher: a publishing house where authors pay to have their works published. There are no submission criteria required or editing services provided and contracts.

Hybrid Publisher – a publisher that requires authors to pay part of the cost to have their works published. There is a submission process, editing services, includes a contract, and pays authors a higher than standard royalty.

Works produced through a traditional publisher are ineligible for submission.

Fees: A **non-refundable** submission fee of 50.00 per title is required at the time of application. Submission fee entitles entrant to be considered for a single category. It does not include registration fee for conference or ticket to award banquet.

Multiple Category Submission: No single title can be submitted to multiple categories. A title must be submitted to a single category.

Multiple Title Submission: an author may chose to enter more than one title that meets the criteria set within these guidelines for type of publisher used, publishing dates, residency requirements, and criteria. A non-refundable fee of 50.00 is required per title submitted with an independent application for each title being submitted. Multiple title submission on a single application will not be accepted.

Deadline: February 01, 2019

Format:

Electronic submissions in (pdf) format of only chapbooks and books published within 2018 calendar year (Jan 1 to Dec. 31) are eligible. Submissions may have been published in physical format or electronic format on a major platform (Kindle, Nook, or iPad). Books must have an assigned ISBN. Books will not be considered as a valid submission if these guidelines are not met and materials and payment are not received by February 01, 2019. Mailed applications with payments must be postmarked by February 01, 2019 to be accepted.

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Required Materials:

Completed application per title.

50.00 Non-refundable Entry Fee per submitted title

Electronic Submission of work in pdf format

(physical copies will not be accepted and will disqualify the submission)

Any mailed applications and payments must be postmarked no later than February 1, 2019 (Friday).

Residency Requirements:

To be considered a Georgia Independent Author and thus eligible for submission, an author must meet one of the following criteria:

The author must have been a resident of Georgia when the submitted book was written, though they author may have since moved from the state, or the author must be currently living currently living in Georgia when the book is submitted.

Winners:

First and second place winners will be announced and recognized at the 2019 Georgia Independent Author of The Year (GIAY) ceremony on May 18, 2019 in Monroe, Georgia.

Categories

A single title can only be submitted to one category and are not eligible for multi-category submissions. The only circumstance that will allow a title to be moved from its original category is in the event there are fewer than (4) titles submitted for the given category. The author will have the opportunity to select a second category that has met the (4) title minimum requirement.

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Definition of GIAY Categories:

Fiction:

- **Detective/Mystery** – a novel by a single author featuring a crime or crimes
- **First Novel** – Science Fiction— A novel by a single author that is grounded in the science or technology of the future
- **Literary Fiction** – A novel by a single author
- **Historical Fiction**- A novel by a single author that is grounded around an historical event, person, or place.
- **Romance** – A novel by a single author intended for the mass market and involving a primary focus on relationships.
- **Science Fiction** – A novel by a single author that is grounded in the science or technology of the future.
- **Short Story Collection** – By a single author

Poetry:

Chapbook: By a single poet and generally not over 40 pages.

Full-Length Book: By a single poet

Non-Fiction:

Biography: A life history that is fact based, reference a life story or a person, a group of people, or a family. This category does not include autobiography, which should be nominated under memoir.

Cookbook: Books that contain a collection of recipes, techniques, or focus on the exploration of food, cooking, and culture of food.

Essay: A collection by a single author that sustains a single topic or theme. May **not** be an anthology of essays by multiple authors.

History: Research based books which uses narratives to examine and analyze past events.

Inspirational: Books on topics of self-help, life improvement, motivational, religious, or spiritual.

Memoir: A book that is an account of one's personal life and experiences by a single author.

Specialty Book: Books that involve a visual element such as art or photography.

Children's Book: Books written for ages 9 and younger by a single author (and/or illustrator)- a children's book includes picture books and can be fiction or non-fiction.

Graphic Novel: A narrative where the story is told not only through words, but also sequential art and can be fiction and non-fiction.

Young Adult: Books written for ages 10 and older by a single author (and/or illustrator) and are either fiction or non-fiction.