



2026 NATIONAL OUTDOOR BOOK AWARDS

INTRODUCTION

The National Outdoor Book Awards (NOBA) is a non-profit educational program sponsored by the NOBA Foundation, the Association of Outdoor Recreation and Education, and Idaho State University. Its purpose is to recognize and encourage outstanding writing and publishing in the outdoor field. Books may be nominated for awards in one of ten categories.

ELIGIBILITY

1. General Eligibility. Eligible works include full length books with subject matter related to outdoor adventure activities, i.e. mountaineering, rock climbing, kayaking, rafting, canoeing, hiking, mountain biking, backpacking, skiing, exploration, fishing, sailing, and other related, primarily non-motorized, outdoor activities. Works dealing with nature, natural history, conservation, or the environment are also eligible and should be entered in the appropriate category. Books must be written in English.
2. Release Dates. To be eligible for the 2026 National Outdoor Book Awards, nominated books should be *newly published* and must have been released (date of first shipment of books) after June 1, 2025 and before September 1, 2026, except for those titles which have been nominated for the Outdoor Classic Award.
3. Outdoor Classic Award. One special award (The Outdoor Classic Award) will be made annually to outdoor books of unusual and lasting significance in the outdoor field. Books nominated for the Classic Award must have been originally copyrighted prior to 2011 and still be in print. Revisions permissible.
4. Revised Editions. Unless otherwise specified, revised editions are only allowed in the two "Guides & Instructional" categories. The following restrictions apply to these two categories: 1) the new edition must be significantly updated; 2) the copyright year must have been updated; and, 3) the revised edition must meet the "Release Dates" requirement above.
5. Edited Works. All books, except those entered in the Design and Outdoor Classic categories, must be the work of one or two authors. Edited collections and anthologies with multiple authors are not acceptable.
6. Nominations. Book nominations may be submitted by publishers or authors.
7. Deadlines. Nominated books are accepted starting in June of 2026. The final deadline to *receive* books and entry forms is Wednesday, August 19, 2026.
8. Limits. There is no limit to the number of titles an author or publisher may submit.
9. Eligibility Disputes. In the event of a dispute as to eligibility, the judges will decide whether a book is eligible, and their decision will be binding.
10. Previous Winners. No entry will be ineligible because its author has previously won the National Outdoor Book Award or any other award.
11. Judges Decisions. Decisions made by the judging panel and the NOBA Governing Committee will be final.
12. Confidentiality. All work of the judging panels and the Governing Committee is confidential.

ENTRY OF BOOKS

1. Number of Copies. Nine (9) copies of each nominated title should be submitted. One of the nine copies will be displayed at the national conference of the Association of Outdoor Recreation and Education. Books should be in final finished form. Soft or hardbound versions are acceptable. Manuscripts, galleys, electronic files or ebooks are *not* acceptable.
2. Entry Forms. One National Outdoor Book Awards Entry Form should accompany the nine copies of the nominated book being submitted. Entry forms and books must be *received* no later than August 19, 2026.

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3. Application Fee. An application fee of \$115 should accompany each nominated title.
4. Multiple Category Entries. A single title may be entered in more than one category, but each extra category entered requires a separate application form, nine review books, and an application fee of \$115.
5. Central Office. Send the entry form, books and application fee to: Ron Watters, Chairman, National Outdoor Book Awards, 921 South 8th Ave., Stop 8128, Idaho State University, Pocatello, ID 83209

ENTRY CATEGORIES

• Outdoor Literature

Examples include works of fiction, non-fiction narratives, poetry, collections, or other forms of literature about outdoor adventure activities.

• Natural History Literature

Books nominated for this category should be non-fictional works oriented toward general audiences. The emphasis is on outstanding writing. Acceptable subject matter includes nature and natural history topics. Works should be primarily textual.

• Journeys

Journeys or travels undertaken in this category must be (a) nature related (nature studies, wildlife investigations, natural history explorations, or journeys within a species such as bird migrations); or (b) outdoor related journeys or adventurous travel (climbing, hiking, biking, boating, fishing, etc.) and primarily be non-motorized.

• Nature and the Environment

Books entered in this category should be oriented to general audiences and use a combination of text, photographs and/or graphics to educate and enlighten. Acceptable subject matter includes nature, natural history and the outdoor environment. Fictional works are not eligible.

• History & Biography

Examples include expedition narratives, historical works, biographies or autobiographies of outdoor personalities revolving around outdoor adventure activities.

• Guides & Instructional (Outdoor Adventure)

Includes guidebooks (trail, river, mountain guides) *and* instructional books (skills, equipment, safety, etc.) for outdoor adventure activities.

• Guides & Instructional (Nature)

Includes identification guides (birds, mammals, plants, etc.) *and* instructional books dealing with nature topics.

• Design and Artistic Merit

Books nominated for this award may be of any genre, but they should be graphically and visually appealing and use artistic design, photographs and/or other art forms to enhance subject matter or to convey a message or theme. Nature or outdoor topics are acceptable in this category.

• Children's Books

Any children's book dealing with nature, natural history or outdoor activities is acceptable. Age orientation may range from pre-school to teens.

• Outdoor Classic

Books nominated for this award should be full length works related to outdoor adventure activities or nature and should be a work of unusual significance and lasting value in the outdoor field. The book must be in print.

BENEFITS

1. All submitted titles will be placed on display at the national conference of the Association of Outdoor Recreation and Education.
2. Winning titles along with reviews, cover scans, and publisher information will appear on social media platforms and the National Outdoor Book Award's website. Additionally, press releases announcing the winning titles will be sent to selected newspapers, web sites, corporate buyers, periodicals and wire services.
3. Publishers of winning titles will receive notification and a letter authorizing the use of the National Outdoor Book Award medallion on book jackets, and permission to use the Award logo on other promotional materials.

COMMITTEE & SPONSORS

Members of the National Outdoor Book Awards Governing Committee include: Rodney Ley, Jim Moss, Ron Watters, and Melanie Wulf. Judging panels include invited educators, trade representatives, authors, book reviewers, and outdoor columnists. NOBA is a non-profit educational program and is sponsored by the NOBA Foundation, Idaho State University, and the Association of Outdoor Recreation and Education.

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2026 ENTRY FORM



Category of Submission

Select *only one* of the following categories. Note: A single title may be entered in more than one category, but a separate application form must be filled out for each category and accompanied with a set of nine books (in addition to the set of nine required for the first category) and a \$115 application fee.

- Outdoor Literature
- Natural History Literature
- Journeys
- Nature and the Environment
- History & Biography
- Children's Books. Age Range: _____
- Guides & Instructional (Outdoor Adventure)
- Guides & Instructional (Nature)
- Design and Artistic Merit
- Outdoor Classic Award

(Children's Book entries must include the specific age range for which the book is intended. "All Ages" is *not* acceptable)

Questions?

Contact: Ron Watters, 921 South 8th Ave., Stop 8128, Pocatello, ID 83209
Phone: 208-282-3912 / Fax: 208-282-2127 / Email: wattron@isu.edu

NOBA Website:
www.noba-web.org

Nominated Title _____	Release Date _____
Author _____	Author's Email _____
Author's City/State _____	
Optional: Title/Author Social Media Tags (# or @) _____	
<i>The author's email is used solely for award notification and is kept strictly confidential.</i>	
Publisher _____	
Publisher City/State _____	Optional: Social Media Tag _____
Contact Person (For questions concerning the nominated book) _____	
Contact Email / Phone _____	
<i>Official representative of publishing house to be notified should this entry be chosen as a winner:</i>	
Name _____	Email _____

<input type="checkbox"/> Complete Entry Form and Enclose Nine (9) Copies of the Nominated Book. If at all possible, include the entry form in the book package . If that's not possible, send the entry form as an attachment to an email to the following: Susan Oliver (SusanOliver@isu.edu) AND Ron Watters (wattron@isu.edu). Attach Payment (\$115 per Entry). For credit card payment, see next page. If paying by check, make it payable to: National Outdoor Book Awards. Check may be sent separately from the books or entry form, but for the title to retain eligibility, payment must be <i>received</i> within 35 days of the application deadline.
<input type="checkbox"/> Send Materials To: Ron Watters, Chairman, National Outdoor Book Awards, 921 South 8th Ave., Stop 8128, Idaho State University, Pocatello, ID 83209
DEADLINE: Entry Forms and Nominated Books Must Be <u>Received</u> by August 19, 2026



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921 South 8th Ave., Stop 8128, Idaho State University, Pocatello, ID 83209

Phone: 208-282-3912 / Fax: 208-282-2127 / Email: watron@isu.edu

Entry Fee Payment Options

Need an IRS Form W-9? It's available here: https://www.noba-web.org/NOBA_IRS_W9.pdf

Entry Fee Per Title: \$115

On-line Payment System

An **on-line payment system** is available for entry fees. (We are still limited to Visa and Mastercard credit cards.) You can access the secure on-line payment portal here: <https://tinyurl.com/2s3zvpck>.

Paying By Check

Entry fees may be paid by check. Make checks payable to: National Outdoor Book Awards. (Send to the address above.) The check may be sent with the books or separately. If sent separately, the check must be received by September 23. If possible, include a copy of the entry form with the check.

All Questions Concerning Payments or Receipt of Books

Contact **Susan Oliver** (NOBA Title Input). Email: susanoliver@isu.edu / Phone: 208-232-3912

Does Your Accounting Department Require an Invoice for Payment?

Contact Ron Watters at watron@isu.edu. Include in your note who and where the invoice should be emailed and the total entry fees.

If You Prefer Not to Use the On-line Payment System, Nor Send a Check

You may provide your card information via phone (208-282-3912) to Susan Oliver who supervises NOBA Title Input.

Submitting Entry Forms

If at all possible, **include the Entry Form in the book package**. If not possible, send the Entry Form as an attachment to an email to both of the following: Susan Oliver (susanoliver@isu.edu) and Ron Watters watron@isu.edu.