



2026 Submission Guidelines and Eligibility

BOOK ELIGIBILITY

Must be published in the United States during 2025

Must be written in English (can be translated into English or be a bilingual book that contains English as one of the languages)

Must be a trade book

Must contain themes or content related to the environment and the concept of environmental stewardship

AWARD CRITERIA

Cadmus Children's Fiction Award and Kline Family Young Adult Fiction Award

- Writing style captures the child's interest and is appropriate for the age intended, and the text meets required standards of quality writing.
- Book promotes an inspired understanding of the environment, an awareness of environmental issues, a theme of environmental justice, or a celebration of nature.
- Environmental issues are current and accurately portrayed.
- Book values diversity and inclusion through authentic storyline, theme, and character portrayal.
- Book encourages the concept of environmental stewardship and the importance of the role each of us play in nurturing, protecting, and defending the environment.

Thomas Family Children's Non-fiction Award and Parker-Tirrell Family and Friends Young Adult Non-fiction Award

- Writing style captures the child's interest and is appropriate for the age intended, and the text meets required standards of quality writing.
- Book promotes an inspired understanding of the environment, an awareness of environmental issues, or a theme of environmental justice.
- Book encourages the concept of environmental stewardship and the importance of the role each of us play in nurturing, protecting, and defending the environment.
- Environmental issues are current and accurately portrayed.
- Book values diversity and inclusion through authentic storyline, theme, character, and portrayal.
- Information provided in the book's bibliography, glossary, index, table of contents, captions, appendices, associated websites, enhances the clarity of the subject matter.
- Cover, photographs, illustrations, and aesthetic devices enhance the general appeal and attractiveness of the book.

Council Oak Picture Book Award Intermediate and GDIT Picture Book Award Primary

- Writing style captures the child's interest and is appropriate for the age intended, and the text meets required standards of quality writing.
- Text and graphics/illustrations/cover enhance the reader's experience and awareness of the theme in the book, as well as the general appeal and attractiveness of the book.
- Book either promotes an inspired understanding of the environment, an awareness of environmental issues, a theme of environmental justice, or a celebration of nature.
- Book encourages the concept of environmental stewardship and the role each of us can play in nurturing, protecting, and defending the environment.
- Environmental issues are current and accurately portrayed.
- Book values diversity and inclusion through authentic storyline, theme, character, and portrayal.