

Nautilus Book Awards

Eligibility Criteria for Book Submissions

To be considered for the Nautilus Book Awards, submissions must meet **all** of the following requirements:

Published Format

- The book must be published in **English** and have a valid **ISBN**.
- Accepted publication types include:
 - **Self-published**
 - **Hybrid-published**
 - **Small press**
 - **Large press**

Definitions for these publishing types are provided below.

Publication Date

The copyright or publication date must be **2026 or 2027**, as printed on or near the book's title page.

Note: If your book lists a 2027 publication date but was physically printed and available for purchase by December 31, 2026, please email us at office@nautilusbookawards.com for clarification.

High-Quality Writing

Submissions must demonstrate **excellence in writing**, including clarity, coherence, grammar, and overall literary merit.

Relevant Message

The book's content must meaningfully align with the **category** selected during the submission process.

Submission Format

You must submit a **complete PDF** of your book, which includes:

- Front cover
- Back cover
- Full interior content

Alignment with Nautilus Values

The book must reflect **at least one** of the following **core values** of the Nautilus Book Awards:

- Conscious and Restorative Earth Practices
- Wellness, Love, and Beauty
- Spiritual Growth
- Social Change and Social Justice

First-Time Submission

Books that have **already been submitted in previous years** are **not eligible** for resubmission.

If special circumstances apply, please contact us at the email above to inquire about possible accommodations.

Please note:

*We do **not** provide individual feedback or commentary on book evaluations.*

Self-published refers to a book that is written, produced, and distributed by the author—without the involvement of a traditional or hybrid publishing house. In self-publishing, the author retains full creative control and financial responsibility for every aspect of the publishing process, including:

- Editing and proofreading
- Cover design and layout
- ISBN registration
- Printing and distribution
- Marketing and promotion

Self-published books are often distributed through platforms such as Amazon KDP, IngramSpark, or directly via the author's website or independent channels. While self-publishing allows for complete autonomy and a higher royalty share, it also places the burden of quality assurance and outreach entirely on the author or their hired team.

Small Press books are titles published by independent publishing houses that typically operate on a smaller scale (2- 10 Titles annually and from multiple authors) than major (or “Big Five”) publishing companies. These presses often focus on niche genres, underrepresented voices, literary quality, or mission-driven content. Small press books often reflect a high level of literary merit, creative risk-taking, and cultural significance, making them strong contenders in awards programs like Nautilus.

Hybrid publishers are publishing companies that blend elements of traditional and self-publishing. In a hybrid model, the author typically contributes financially to the publication process, but the publisher provides a suite of professional services—offering more support and structure than self-publishing, while granting more creative control and rights retention than traditional publishing.

At Nautilus, we recognize high-quality books from **all publishing paths**, including hybrid models, as long as the work aligns with our core values and meets our eligibility standards.

Traditional (Large) Publishers—also known as trade publishers or commercial publishers—are well-established publishing houses that operate on a large scale, often releasing hundreds or thousands of books each year across multiple genres and imprints. These include the major industry leaders often referred to as the "Big Five" (or their current consolidations), as well as other long-standing publishing firms with national or international reach.

The Nautilus Book Awards recognizes excellence in books from **all publishing models**, including traditional large publishers, as long as the submission aligns with our mission and values and meets our eligibility requirements.