Eligibility

The 2027 Phi Beta Kappa Book Awards will be presented at events sponsored by The Phi Beta Kappa national office. Each of the three awards are given to outstanding scholarly books accessible to the general, literate reader in the fields of humanities, the social sciences, the natural sciences, and mathematics and carrying a prize of $10,000 for each winning author.

The three awards are:

- The Christian Gauss Award
- The Phi Beta Kappa Award in Science
- The Ralph Waldo Emerson Award

Eligible books must meet the following criteria to be considered:

1. Publication date:
   - All submissions must have a publish date within the 2026 calendar year. Books with a pending publish date on or before December 31, 2026 are eligible and will be considered.
   - To qualify, a book must have been published in the United States. However, a book that otherwise meets all the conditions for consideration will not be disqualified if it was first published outside the United States as long as both its original publication date and its United States publication date fall during the requisite calendar year.

2. Works of broad interest:
   - In all cases, entries must be of broad interest and accessible to the general reader.
   - Entries should not be highly technical in character; nor should they treat subjects of narrowly limited interest.
   - Research reports and other technical treatments of a subject are not eligible.

3. Multiple volume works:
   - A single volume that is part of a multi-volume work may be entered if the volume is independent and self-sufficient and meets the other requirements for eligibility.

4. Original publication:
   - Entries must be original publications.
   - Translations to English are ineligible.
   - Works previously published as a whole, even if republished with considerable changes or additions, are ineligible.
   - Books that consist entirely of previously published articles are ineligible.
   - Books that include chapters or sections previously published as articles in periodicals by a single author will be considered only if they have very clear, unifying themes and are not random collections.

5. Entry submission requirements:
   - Publishers may enter more than one title per award.
   - Entries must be submitted by the publisher. Entries submitted by authors will not be accepted.
   - A book may be entered only once.

6. Author requirements:
   - Entries ordinarily must be the work of a single author. Exceptions may be made for books written by small teams of scholars working in close collaboration.
   - Books that are collections of chapters by several different authors are ineligible.
   - Authors must be both living and working in the United States.
   - The author of each winning title is expected to attend an event sponsored by the Phi Beta Kappa national office. We kindly ask that authors be available to attend and accept their award in person. Travel is covered by the Society.

7. Submission procedures:
   - Publishers may submit entries during the open nomination period. Entries must align with publication date requirements.
   - Publishers should complete a submission form for each book submitted.
   - One copy of each title submitted must be received by the Phi Beta Kappa Society by the close of the nomination period. At this stage of evaluation, digital review copies are preferred over mailed submissions whenever possible. All submissions will remain confidential and will only be reviewed by the evaluation committee.
   - Phi Beta Kappa will notify publishers if a submitted title is selected for the short list of any award, at which time they may be asked to provide additional mailed copies for further review.

For questions or concerns, please contact the Awards Department at awards@pbk.org.