

Frequently Asked Questions

Is there a fee to enter the Spur Awards?

No, it is free to enter, but all entries MUST meet all rule requirements and have the correct completed entry forms included when submitted.

Do I have to be a *Western Writers of America* member to enter?

You do NOT have to be a WWA member to submit an entry, and membership has no bearing on the judging outcome. We do encourage everyone to join and enjoy the benefits of the WWA. All published authors are welcome to enter the Spur Awards.

Where do I send my entry?

Send ONE copy of your entry, along with a completed entry form to the Spur Awards Chair and one copy to EACH of the three Spur Judges in the category you are entering.

TOTAL: 4 copies of your entry & 4 completed entry forms

(See *Spur Judges - Category list & addresses on Spur Rules page on website and in Roundup Magazine*)

How do I choose a category to enter?

A list of requirements for each Spur Category is listed on the Rules Pages. The category that best describes and matches your entry is the one we recommend submitting it in.

Contemporary as well as Traditional Western works are encouraged to enter.

(Please NOTE that "memoirs" are NOT considered Biography, but should be entered in the nonfiction category which best fits the time period of the memoir.)

Can I submit an entry in more than one category?

You can enter individual works in ONE category only.

How many entries can I submit in each category?

You may enter up to five individual entries per category. Each submission MUST be entered as a separate entry. Revised editions may NOT be entered.

Can I send an e-mail copy of my book to enter?

No e-mailed copies will be accepted. Written copies of all books/lyrics/screenplays, etc. MUST be submitted. (This should be a published book, in final produced version – NO ARCS or photocopies of published books, articles, poems, etc.) In the event it is an original audiobook or eBook, you will need to send a copy of the manuscript.

Are eBooks and audiobooks eligible?

Yes, eBooks and original audiobooks can be entered but must be submitted with a copy of the manuscript, along with the completed entry forms.

Can newly revised editions be entered?

NO revised editions are eligible.

What "copyright date" is eligible to enter?

The "copyright date" used to judge

the eligibility of each entry is the FIRST COPYRIGHTED year of the entry, which matches the date printed in or on the submitted book/submission.

All eligible material for the Spur Awards MUST BE FIRST COPYRIGHTED (or aired for public viewing) for the year listed in the current Spur Rules. (Some categories may require an additional industry-acceptable format DVD/Flash Drive/YouTube or viewable link.)

When can I enter the Spur Awards?

Entries will be accepted from August 1 through January 15, depending on the copyright/publishing date.

If published January 1 through August 31: must be entered and received NO later than October 1.

If published September 1 through December 31: must be entered and received NO later than January 15.

Entries should be submitted at the earliest possible date. Absolutely NO entries received after the deadline dates will be judged. Entry forms must accompany all entries.

Will I receive an acknowledgment that my entry was received?

No works submitted will have their delivery acknowledged.

(If you include a note to the Spur Chair when entering, requesting an e-mail acknowledgement, all efforts will be made to answer, but we cannot guarantee such acknowledgments.)

Should I enter myself or wait for my publisher?

All published authors are welcome to enter their own work and we recommend you do it, as sometimes publishers do not follow through or wait until the last minute to send in entries. It is better to enter a submission yourself than not at all. If you expect your publisher to enter your work, make sure you contact the publisher in advance of the deadline to be certain that your work actually has been entered.

Can I recommend an entry?

If you know of authors/songwriters, etc., please let them or their publisher/producer know about the Spur Awards and encourage them to enter.

Can self-published books be entered?

Self-published books can be entered as long as they meet all the requirements listed on the Category and Rules pages.

Are dramas or documentaries eligible for entry?

Yes, drama screenplays and documentaries can be entered in the Spur Awards.

Please refer to the category listings for complete entry rules.

What if this is my FIRST Novel or FIRST Nonfiction book?

If this is your first Novel or Nonfiction book and you have entered it in one of

the Spur categories, your entry may also be recognized as the Best First Novel or Best First Nonfiction Book. All you need do is check the BOX on the entry form, and submit an additional copy of your entry to the Spur Chair (two copies total to Chair). WWA awards one Spur for the top chosen First Novel and First Nonfiction Book. (Please note that this is NOT a category on its own.)

Will my entry be returned when the contest is over?

No works submitted will be returned.

When will the Spur Award winners and finalists be announced?

The Spur Awards winners and finalists will be officially announced by WWA in March by posting on the WWA website and social media platforms.

Awards will be presented during the annual WWA Convention in June.

How are Spur winners and finalists notified?

All winners and finalists will receive an e-mail notice before the official WWA announcement in March, followed by a written letter from the Spur Awards Chair. Only the persons and addresses listed on the entry form will be contacted.

What does a Spur Award winner receive?

Winners will be invited to the Spur Awards banquet during the annual WWA Convention in June, where they will be presented their handmade Spur Award plaque during the ceremony. Winners will receive ONE complimentary ticket to the banquet for the author only (Children's Picture Book category: author & illustrator will each receive a banquet ticket).

What is a Spur finalist?

Spur finalists are chosen in each category for being among the top entry choices of the Spur Judges but are NOT Spur Award winners. (Only ONE winner and up to two finalists are chosen in each category.)

What does a Spur Award finalist receive?

Each finalist will be invited to the WWA Convention Spur Finalist Luncheon, where they will receive their Finalist Certificate. Finalists will receive ONE complimentary ticket to the luncheon for the author only (Children's Picture Book category: author & illustrator will each receive a luncheon ticket).

Can tickets be purchased for convention, events and Spur Award ceremonies?

Tickets for the convention and all events/tours/ceremonies can be purchased on the WWA webpage under Convention Information.

Who do I contact if I have questions about the Spur Awards?

All rules, categories and the entry form can be found in *Western Writers of America's Roundup Magazine* (August Issue), as well as the WWA Webpage (WesternWriters.org) beginning in August.

Direct inquiry can be sent to the Spur Awards Chair: www.spurawards@gmail.com.