Mathical

CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS: 2026 Mathical Book Prize
Awarded by the Simons Laufer Mathematical Sciences Institute (SLMath)

In partnership with the National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE)
and the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics (NCTM)
and in coordination with the Children's Book Council (CBC)

Deadline for Submissions: September 26, 2025

The Mathical Book Prize is awarded to fiction and nonfiction titles written for youth ages 2-18. The aim of the prize is to inspire a love of math in the world around us.

A single title will be awarded the Mathical Book Prize annually in each of five age categories. Additional titles may be named as Honor Books across the same categories:

- Pre-K
- Grades K-2
- Grades 3-5
- Grades 6-8
- Grades 9-12

Winning titles may inspire a love of math in many ways, often by connecting with children's interests across many different genres and subject areas, from magic, sports, art, music, and poetry, to biography, adventure, graphic novels, and of course, picture books for the very young.

Both literary merit and mathematical interest must be present for a book to be eligible for the prize. Creative approaches that embrace math as logic and problem solving, math as the finding of patterns, and math as critical and artistic thinking, are encouraged.

By analogy, in our schools we teach music theory and music appreciation. While many school curricula teach math as a theoretical subject, the Mathical Book Prize celebrates the appreciation of mathematics: its beauty, and its applications.

The 2026 Mathical winners will join an exclusive and ever-growing resource list that is promoted nationally among librarians, K-12 teachers, mathematicians, and families.

Publishers are advised to review the portfolio of books previously awarded to gain a greater sense of eligible titles.

FEES

There is no submission fee for the 2026 Mathical Book Prize.

ELIGIBILITY

Only books published in 2025 will be eligible for the Mathical Book Prize.

Both fiction and nonfiction titles may be submitted.

- Books must be intended for grades PreK-12.
- All books must originate with a children's publishing company or division and must be published (not simply distributed) by a publisher incorporated in the U.S. or Canada.
- Original paperbacks are eligible; paperback reprints are not. If a book is published simultaneously in hardcover and paperback, either edition may be submitted.
- Textbooks, workbooks, kits, experiment-only books, and activity books are not eligible.
- Spanish-language editions published in the U.S. / Canada simultaneously with English-language editions are eligible.
- Books translated into English are eligible.
- Publishers agree to share publicity materials (such as high-resolution cover images) for use in marketing of the winning titles, if selected.

SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

Books are chosen to support students' pleasure reading by encouraging the independent pursuit of the joy, beauty, and

power of mathematics in the world around us. Titles are suited for library collections, informal learning settings, and classroom studies.

The selection panel looks first for literary quality; secondly, for well-presented books that contain substantial and inspirational math content; that are clear, accurate, and inviting in their approach to mathematics.

Some books will share easily recognizable math skills through a well-told story. Many others will simply suggest or encourage an enjoyment of mathematics in the broadest sense, by a variety of different approaches.

GUIDELINES

- Publishers may submit an **unlimited number of titles** in the 2026 Mathical cycle.
- We will continue to accept PDF manuscripts this year. Early submissions are encouraged. **We will notify publishers on a rolling basis whether books have made an initial screening cut.** If so, we request hard-copy books to be mailed to the full committee for consideration.
- **Initially, you will be asked to submit one PDF copy of each title**. The manuscripts will be held in strict confidence and utilized only for the purpose of Mathical Book Prize selection.
- SLMath will send uploading instructions to participating publishers on a rolling basis as entries are received; publishers should begin to upload manuscripts as soon as they receive the instructions. Book manuscripts must be uploaded by October 3, 2025, to be reviewed.
- Please fill out this submission form by September 26.

SELECTION OF WINNING TITLES

Title selection will be made in January 2026, and the public announcement of the 2026 Prize winners is planned for a live online winners' event in February 2026. Publicity will be shared at national conferences serving PreK-12 educators in Spring & Summer 2026.

QUESTIONS?

Contact Kirsten Bohl, Mathical Book Prize coordinator, for more information: mathical@slmath.org or 510.499.5181.

Additional information may be found at mathicalbooks.org.

SIMONS LAUFER MATHEMATICAL SCIENCES INSTITUTE

The Mathical Book Prize is organized by the Simons Laufer Mathematical Sciences Institute (SLMath) in Berkeley, California. SLMath is a landmark of U.S. and world collaborative mathematical research. Our mission is to foster and communicate mathematical research in a broad range of fundamental topics and applications, develop mathematical talent and cultivate a sense of belonging and engagement, and inspire an appreciation of the power, beauty, and joy of mathematics.

We strive to make mathematics accessible and exciting to those outside the field through programs including film production for public television and the Mathical Book Prize.

SLMath has been supported since its origins by the National Science Foundation, joined by other government agencies, private foundations and corporations, individual donors, and over 100 academic sponsor institutions in the United States and around the globe. SLMath is a registered 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.