



SAVANNAH BOOK FESTIVAL

Guidelines for the 2026 Savannah Book Festival

The annual Savannah Book Festival (SBF) will take place this year from February 5 - 8, 2026. The 40+ nationally recognized authors who are invited to attend will give solo presentations in historic venues throughout downtown Savannah and sign their books in Telfair Square. These events are free and open to the public.

SBF also features three headlining authors at ticketed events on Thursday, Friday, and Sunday.

Please read all the following information before submitting a book to SBF:

To be considered for the 2026 Festival, the book must be published after the previous year's Festival.

Criteria for submissions:

1. Publications dates - books eligible for the 2026 Festival must be published after **February 9, 2025**
2. Traditionally published – the Festival relies on traditional publishers to help vet submissions, ensuring a manageable selection process.
3. Adult literature – the Festival is focused on adult literature.

When should a book be submitted?

We accept submissions of books from March 1 through June 30 in the calendar year preceding the Festival.

Who decides which authors are invited?

An all-volunteer Author Advisory Council reviews the submissions and chooses the authors who will be invited. The invitations are sent beginning in July with the schedule of authors in place in December.

What types of books are considered?

While we review all books that are submitted, our main goal is to provide an excellent and diverse mix of literature for all attendees and participating authors featuring books from the following genres:

- Fiction — with an emphasis on literary fiction
- Narrative nonfiction — history, biography, memoir, and essays. Nonfiction books are considered from a variety of perspectives that encourage and engage in fair, respectful discussions of historical

figures, and ideas

- Graphic novels
- Cookbooks and food-related titles
- Art and architecture titles
- Titles with a local focus
- Poetry

What types of books are not considered?

Due to the volume of work submitted, the Savannah Book Festival does not consider self-published, author-financed, or hybrid titles. The Festival may rely on traditional publishers to help vet submissions, ensuring a manageable selection process. The SBF's focus is on adult literature, therefore, children's books are not considered. SBF does include one to two YA or YA crossover books each year.

What happens when a book is selected?

We typically begin sending invitations to invited authors in July with the schedule of authors in place by December. Notification letters to successful applicant(s) will be sent by November 10, 2025; failure to receive notice of approval by that date should be taken as notice of declination; **letters of declination will not be sent.**

Book Sales and Signings:

The Festival works with E. Shaver Booksellers to order books for sale during the Festival. Authors will only sign books that are purchased at the Festival. Festival Saturday authors head to the Book Signing Tent after their presentation to sign books.

Travel:

Savannah Book Festival covers domestic, coach travel and lodging expenses for authors travelling out of state. Our presenting authors stay at beautiful hotels located in the heart of Savannah's historic district, close to all Festival venues.

SBF@Schools:

Savannah Book Festival invites participating authors to arrive in Savannah a day early to take part in SBF@Schools. In 2025, over 20 authors volunteered to visit public middle and high schools on Friday morning. Authors express that this program is the highlight of their Festival experience.

Please keep in mind:

There is no fee for submissions.

Meeting the criteria for consideration does not guarantee an invitation to participate in the Festival as a featured author. Books submitted for consideration will not be returned, and authors will receive neither feedback nor critique of submitted works.

37 W. Fairmont Avenue, #216, Savannah, GA 31406 | 912.598.4040 | www.savannahbookfestival.org

Please complete the [Author Submission Form here.](#)

After you have completed the Author Submission Form, please send or have your publicist send the book to Festival Assistant Director, Mickie McNamara:

Savannah Book Festival, 37 W. Fairmont Ave., Suite 216 Savannah, GA 31406

Questions?

(912) 598-4040 or tara@savannahbookfestival.org.