Montana Book Awards

2019 Nominees and Winners
About the Montana Book Award

- Founded in 2001 by the Friends of Missoula Public Library
- Recognizes the literary and artistic excellence of Montana writers and their work
- A committee of readers representing geographic distribution throughout Montana selects the winner.
- Eligible titles are either:
  - Set in Montana
  - Deal with Montana themes/issues, or
  - Written, edited or illustrated by a Montana author or artist.
- Titles may be:
  - Fiction, non-fiction, poetry, drama, art, photography, a graphic novel (comics in book form), or an anthology and written for any age group
  - Published between January 1 and December 31 of the preceding year.
  - Published on paper in English in the U.S.
- Awards ceremony held in conjunction with the Montana Library Association opening reception.
The Montana Book Award Committee
Members

Mary Drew Powers
Gavin Wolfjer
Stef Johnson
Gloria Behem
Elizabeth Jonkel, Chair

Jessie Pate
Marje Doyle
Kim Siemsen
Debbie Stewart
Alice Meister
Nominated Titles
Eligible Titles

Title: In Full Flight: One Woman’s Quest for Atonement in Africa
Author: John Heminway
Publisher: Knopf
“Explores the question of whether it is possible to rewrite one’s past by doing good in the present, and takes readers on an extraordinary journey into a dramatic life.”

Title: A Family History of Illness: Memory as Medicine
Author: Brett L. Walker
Publisher: University of Washington Press
“A gritty historical memoir that examines the role of family medical past in understanding our physical selves.”
Eligible Titles

**Title:** The Dead Enders  
**Author:** Erin Saldin  
**Publisher:** Simon & Schuster  
“Set during the summer in the small tourist town of Gold Fork about four teens all sharing one secret from their past.”

**Title:** Driven: A White-Knuckled Ride to Heartbreak and Back  
**Author:** Melissa Stephenson  
**Publisher:** Houghton Mifflin Harcourt  
“One woman’s road to hope following the death of her troubled brother, told through the series of cars that accompanied her.”
Eligible Titles

Title: Broken Field
Author: Jeff Hull
Publisher: Arcade
“Reveals the tensions that tear at the fabric of a small town when a high school hazing incident escalates and threatens a championship season.”

Title: Hearth: A Global Conversation on Identity, Community, and Place
Author: Annick Smith & Susan O’Connor, eds.
Publisher: Milkweed Editions
“A multicultural anthology about the enduring importance and shifting associations of the hearth in our world.”
Eligible Titles

**Title:** A Way Home: Oregon Essays  
**Author:** Scott F. Parker  
**Publisher:** Kelson Books

“**A love letter to Oregon and an ode to living in the present moment.**”
2019 HONOR BOOK
The Flicker of Old Dreams

Author: Susan Henderson
Publisher: Harper Collins.

This is a novel about a young woman who comes most alive while working in her father’s mortuary in a small, forgotten Western town. Set in America’s heartland, The Flicker of Old Dreams explores themes of resilience, redemption, and loyalty in prose as lyrical as it is powerful.
2019 HONOR BOOK
Howl Like A Wolf!
Learn to Think, Move and Act Like 15 Amazing Animals

Author: Kathleen Yale
Publisher: Storey Publishing

This creative and beautifully illustrated interactive guide makes learning about animals fun for children. Fifteen animals explain their amazing feats and invite kids to enter their world by mimicking their behavior — an imaginative approach to learning that fosters curiosity, empathy, and dramatic play.
The Traveling Feast: On the Road at the Table with My Heroes

Author: Rick Bass
Publisher: Little, Brown and Company

The Traveling Feast is an odyssey to some of America’s most iconic writers as well as a record of self-transformation as Bass seeks to recapture the fire that drove him as a young man. Along the way we join in escapades involving smuggled contraband, an exploding grill, a trail of blood through Heathrow airport, an episode of dog-watching with Amy Hempel in Central Park, and a near run-in with plague-ridden prairie dogs on the way to see Lorrie Moore, as well as heartwarming and bittersweet final meals with the late Peter Matthiessen, John Berger, and Denis Johnson. Poignant, funny, and wistful, The Traveling Feast is a guide to living well and an unforgettable adventure that nourishes and renews the spirit.
2019 HONOR BOOK

Warblers & Woodpeckers: A Father-Son Big Year of Birding

Author: Sneed Collard III
Publisher: Mountaineer Books

From the killer bee-infested border region of southeast Arizona to the sultry islands of the Galapagos, Warblers & Woodpeckers recounts the quest of a father and his thirteen-year-old son to see as many birds as possible in a single year. With a measured blend of humor, natural history, and adventure, this tale takes readers to great birding hotspots of America and beyond, both to experience their incredible avian wealth and to experience the focused, often eccentric, world of ornithological travel. Along the way, readers share the ups and downs of the relationship between a father and his teenage son.
2019 Montana Book Award Winner
One-Sentence Journal: Short Poems and Essays from the World at Large

Author: Chris La Tray
Publisher: Riverfeet Press

One-Sentence Journal is a collection of poems grouped by the seasons over the course of one year. Each captures the intransigence of a moment in a single day and celebrates the intimate relationship between nature and self. Interspersed are essays on life and living in Montana. La Tray’s poignant yet humorous observations challenge readers to reflect on their own surroundings and share in his gratitude for the beauty of the natural world.
Looking for two new committee members, preferably from the Lewis & Clark and Silver Bow regions
- Please submit your name or nomination by April 20, 2019 to montanabookaward@gmail.com

Montana Book Award 2020 nominations for titles can be submitted now.
- Any title published between January 1-December 31, 2019 is eligible
- Nomination forms are available at http://www.montanabookaward.org/
- Nomination forms and copies of the nominated title should be sent to:
  Montana Book Award, P. O. BOX 8732 Missoula, Montana 59802-8732
- Deadline is December 10, 2019