

FESTIVAL *of* **BOOKS** *in the Alleghenies*

Author Guidelines, Criteria, and Terms and Conditions **2024 Festival of Books in the Alleghenies**

Please read the following information before applying to FOBA.

The Author Selection Committee reviews submissions with the goal of creating an appealing mix of literature for all visitors. Every year, FOBA aims to bring a diverse mix of authors from a variety of genres, disciplines, heritages, cultures and more. When evaluating submissions, we consider not only you and your work, but also where it might fit with the other work in the overall lineup of the Festival.

Only complete, online applications submitted by the deadline will be considered.

[\[Click here to apply.\]](#)

About the Event

The annual Festival of Books in the Alleghenies (FOBA) will take place this year from September 20-21, 2024 in Ebensburg, PA.

FOBA will host a ticketed fundraising event Friday, September 20, 2024 to support local literacy initiatives. The evening will feature the New York Times best-selling author and Cambria County native, Jennifer Haigh, as the keynote speaker.

The Festival of Books will be held Saturday, September 21, 2024 at Veterans Park in Ebensburg, PA. The 55+ local authors who are invited to attend will participate in book vending, signings, and readings.

Important Deadlines & Dates

- **June 1, 2024:** Applications open
- **June 30, 2024:** Deadline for applications (midnight)
- **July 15, 2024:** Author invitations issued via email
- **August 1, 2024:** Deadline for invited authors to confirm participation and pay registration fee.

- **September 20, 2024:** Literacy Fundraiser featuring keynote speaker Jennifer Haigh
- **September 21, 2024:** Festival of Books in the Alleghenies at Veterans Memorial Park, Ebensburg, PA 10:00 AM – 5:00 PM Eastern.

How is a book considered?

Priority is given to authors whose body of work and platforms meet these criteria:

- Book covers are family-friendly.
- Have an established online platform, including a functional website and social media presence.
- Can provide a PDF or physical copy of their books (upon request only).
- Be published through a publishing house or independent or university press. If self-published, the author's books are:
 - Bound
 - Professionally edited by experienced professionals (including developmental/structural, lined edited, copyedited, and proofread)
 - Have ISBN and EAN barcode numbers

Who decides which authors are invited?

An all-volunteer Author Selection Committee reviews the submissions and chooses the authors who will be invited. The bulk of invitations go out beginning July 15 with the schedule of authors usually in place by mid August.

What types of books are not considered?

- Because FOBA is a family-friendly, public event, authors whose book covers feature R or X-rated graphics or images will not be considered.
- Because we want to offer a quality selection of literature to our audience, authors who have books without ISBN and that have not been professionally edited and bound will not be considered.

What happens when an author is invited to attend FOBA?

We will begin issuing invitations to participate in the Festival July 15 with the schedule of authors in place by August 15.

Authors invited to attend will be given a registration link and expected to pay the \$65 registration fee by August 15. Authors may request a table with electricity for an additional \$15. They may also select a boxed lunch option for an additional charge.

What happens when an author is not invited to attend FOBA?

As we are unable to notify individuals who are not selected, we post an announcement on the Festival website when all submissions have been considered and invitations have been sent.

Authors not invited will be added to a waitlist and contacted if a spot opens.

Author Expectations

Authors are expected to:

- Arrive to FOBA on September 21 by 8:30 AM and be set up by 9:30 AM. They are also expected to stay until 5:00 PM. Authors who leave early may forfeit future consideration for FOBA.
- Promote FOBA across their platforms, including social media channels, press releases, and email subscribers.
- Be respectful of table and vending space. They may provide signage as long as it is appropriate and within the author's assigned space.
- Have at least one person at your table at all times throughout the Festival's hours of operations.

Do you offer author scholarships for FOBA?

Yes. To ensure the Festival remains accessible and inclusive for writers of all backgrounds and identities, we offer a scholarship to cover the registration cost for this year's festival. This scholarship will be awarded to one author from a historically underrepresented group for whom the cost of registration would prove a financial burden. To apply for the scholarship, complete the [scholarship application](#) by June 30.

Terms and Conditions

- Meeting the criteria for consideration does not guarantee an invitation to be a featured author.
- The registration for FOBA is \$65 due upon acceptance as a featured author. The registration fee covers a table and two chairs in the author tent. This fee does not include table linens. Author may request electricity for an additional \$15.
- The festival hours are 10:00 AM – 5:00 PM. Authors are expected to stay for the entire duration of the Festival. Authors who leave early may forfeit future attendance to FOBA.
- The Festival will be held rain or shine. In the event of rain, the Festival will be held at an alternative location. Refunds will not be issued due to inclement weather.
- Registration fees are non-refundable after August 20, 2024.
- Authors who are invited to participate are responsible for their own travel and expenses related to attending the event.
- Festival of Books in the Alleghenies, Festival sponsors, representatives, and agents of the Festival shall not be liable for any claims, liabilities, costs and charges (including attorneys' fees and costs) arising out of any injury, loss or damage to the person or property of author, its employees, representatives or agents.
- Authors who sell products are responsible for payment of state tax on gross sales.