

2026 MOUNTAIN BOOK COMPETITION

BANFF CENTRE MOUNTAIN FILM AND BOOK FESTIVAL

Banff Centre Mountain Film and Book Festival celebrates mountain literature and film, bringing together filmmakers, writers, publishers, editors, photographers, athletes, adventurers, and – of course – readers. Featuring film screenings, guest speakers, readings, seminars, and book signings, the Festival offers a wide spectrum of experiences for the mountain enthusiast. Other activities include the Banff Mountain Film Competition, Mountain Film Festival World Tour and Mountain Culture programs such as the Adventure Filmmakers Workshop and the Mountain Writers Intensive. The Festival takes place on the campus of Banff Centre for Arts and Creativity each year in Banff Alberta, Canada. The 2026 Festival will be held October 31 to November 8, 2026.

BOOK ENTRY DEADLINE – June 30, 2026

Entry forms and 4 reading copies for each title must arrive at the Festival office by this date.

****early submission is encouraged and appreciated****

MOUNTAIN BOOK COMPETITION CATEGORIES

Prizes will be awarded in each of the following categories. Please note that in all categories (apart from the Mountain Image category) only English editions are eligible for the award.

Adventure Travel – includes non-fiction books with a theme of travel to, and non-motorized exploration of, remote and/or rugged landscapes and their cultures.

Mountain Literature – includes non-fiction books such as memoirs, biographies, and narratives on mountaineering, climbing history, mountain exploration, mountain people and culture, and human experiences of any kind in the mountains and in wilderness areas. Also includes fiction and poetry books with a focus on mountain topics. Creative narratives about climbing and mountaineering, exploration and the experiences and cultures of mountain people are accepted

Environmental Literature – includes books that pertain to the environment, specifically related to flora, wildlife, conservation, and climate change. Scholastic research and academic papers/texts will not be accepted.

Guidebook – non-fiction books dealing with physical activities in mountain environments including hiking, climbing, mountaineering and “how-to” books.

Mountain Image – includes books with a primary focus on mountain images and with text in a complementary role. Images may include photographs or reproductions of artwork.

Mountain Article – includes articles or short form essays under 7,000 words with mountain themes including, but not limited to: climbing, adventure, conservation, and mountain literature. Articles may be fiction, historical or non-fiction narratives, and can be submitted by either an editor or author of the article. This category accepts articles that have been published in print or digitally.

Climbing Literature – will be awarded to the best long-listed book on mountaineering or climbing.

Grand Prize - will be awarded to a book chosen from amongst the winners in the above categories.

ENTER ONLINE AT:

<https://www.banffcentre.ca/banff-mountain-book-competition>

SHIP BOOKS TO:

Mountain Book Competition
c/o Banff Centre for Arts and Creativity
107 Tunnel Mountain Drive
PO Box 1020, Station 38
Banff, AB, Canada, T1L 1H5

DEADLINES

Entry forms and books (or advanced reading copies) must be received at the Festival office in Banff by **June 30, 2026**.

Finished copies of titles submitted as advance reading copies must be received by **July 31, 2026**.

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REGULATIONS

- 1) First Editions - to be eligible for the 2026 Mountain Book Competition, entries must be first editions published in 2025 or 2026 (before July 31, 2026).
- 2) Each book entry must include **four (4)** finished copies of the book (or **two (2)** advance reading copies). These are necessary for the preview and judging process and will NOT be returned. Any copies held by Banff Centre can be sold by Banff Centre at its sole discretion.
- 3) Each book entry should also be submitted with a pdf or digital format. If the file is too large, please e-mail banffmountainbooks@banffcentre.ca
- 4) New editions of previously published titles may be eligible if previous editions have not been entered in the competition in the past. Each title may be entered in the competition only once.
- 5) Entries for all categories may be submitted by authors or publishers. **Please coordinate to avoid duplication.**
- 6) Mountain Article – must be under 7,000 words and must be submitted as a PDF. Must have been published in 2025 or 2026. Scholastic, research, or scientific articles will **not** be accepted. Entries must be a standalone piece and cannot be part of a collection of writing. Each author can submit **two (2)** articles.
- 7) Shipping, customs duties and taxes are the responsibility of the entrant. The use of retail values on international shipments may generate duty and/or taxes; these will be charged back to the sender.
- 8) All works must be in English except those in the Mountain Image category, which may be in any language. A separate English translation must be provided.
- 9) The entry form must be submitted online by June 30, 2026. Early submission is encouraged and appreciated.
- 10) Books or advanced reading copies must be received at the Festival office in Banff no later than June 30, 2026
- 11) Advance reading copies may be accepted as an interim entry for titles due to be published after June 30, 2026 (and before July 31, 2026) and must be received by June 30, 2026. Final editions of books must be received by July 31, 2026.
- 12) Entries must be accompanied by a synopsis of a maximum of 60 words. Other promotional materials such as media releases, reviews, etc., are welcome but are not a requirement.
- 13) Please email a high-resolution image file (TIFF preferred) of the book cover to: banffmountainbooks@banffcentre.ca
- 14) Banff Centre reserves the right to select the category most appropriate for a submission.
- 15) Banff Centre reserves the right to use excerpts from, and/or complete entries for promotional purposes.
- 16) The shortlist of category award winners eligible for the Grand Prize will be announced in October 2026.
- 17) The Grand Prize will be announced on Thursday, November 5, 2026, at the Banff Centre Mountain Film and Book Festival and category awards will be presented to winning authors.
- 18) At the discretion of Banff Centre, winning authors and publishers may be notified in advance.
- 19) Decisions made by the jury will be final.
- 20) Posthumous works will not be accepted.
- 21) All eligible titles submitted may be displayed during the 2026 Banff Centre Mountain Film and Book Festival.
- 22) Books written primarily for children and young adults are not suitable for this competition.
- 23) Books written by Banff Centre staff members or members of our current international jury will not be eligible for consideration in the competition. Books written by past jury members may be considered in the following year if published within the allowable dates.

ENTRIES FROM OUTSIDE CANADA

All entries shipped from **OUTSIDE CANADA** must include a completed Customs Form (or a Commercial Invoice) attached to the **outside** of the parcel. Please note that the declared value should be equivalent to the cost of materials only. Shipping, customs duty and taxes are the responsibility of the entrant.

2025 Book Competition Winners

GRAND PRIZE:

(\$5000) Sponsored by the Alpine Club of Canada

Thirty Below: The Harrowing and Heroic Story of the First All-Women's Ascent of Denali, Cassidy Randall, Abrams (USA, 2025)

CATEGORY PRIZES:

Adventure Travel (\$3000) Sponsored by Rocky Mountain Books

Into the Thaw: Witnessing Wonder Amid the Arctic Climate Crisis, Jon Waterman, Patagonia Books (USA, 2024)

Mountain Fiction & Poetry (\$3000) Sponsored by The Town of Banff

An Abundance of Wild Roses, Feryal Ali-Gauhar, Canongate (UK, 2024)

Please note – this category has been combined with Mountain Literature in 2026

Mountain Literature – Jon Whyte Award (\$3000) sponsored by The Whyte Museum of the Canadian Rockies

Thirty Below: The Harrowing and Heroic Story of the First All-Women's Ascent of Denali, Cassidy Randall, Abrams (USA, 2025)

Environmental Literature (\$3000) Sponsored by Rab

The Wild Dark: Finding the Night Sky in the Age of Light, Craig Childs, Torrey House Press (USA, 2025)

Mountain Image (\$3000) Sponsored by Mountain Life

Eden: A Portrait of Mountain Biking in Aotearoa New Zealand, Nick Stevenson, Thames & Hudson Australia (Aotearoa New Zealand, 2025)

Guidebook (\$3000) Sponsored by the Association of Canadian Mountain Guides

Northern Horizons, Will Herman, Scottish Mountaineering Press (UK, 2025)

Mountain Article (\$3000) Sponsored by The Lodge at Bow Lake

Fleet-Winged Ghosts of Greenland, Caroline Van Hemert, Hakai Magazine/BioGraphic (USA, 2024)

Climbing Literature (\$3000) Sponsored by NOLS

Moving the Needle, Dave MacLeod, Rare Breed Productions (UK, 2024)

Special Jury Mention

Is a River Alive?, Robert Macfarlane, W.W. Norton & Company (USA, 2025)

Special Jury Mention

Across the Himalaya, Vineeta Muni, Neemtree Tech Labs Pvt Ltd (India, 2025)