



*Benjamin
Franklin
Award*

National Fire Heritage Center

An Archives for and about America's Fire Services and Fire Protection Disciplines

Post Office Drawer 76 - Emmitsburg, Maryland 21727

<https://www.fireheritageusa.org/archives/beta-test-benjamin-franklin>

Benjamin Franklin Writer's Award

About the Award:

Established to preserve the history of America's fire services, the National Fire Heritage Center recognizes that authors of books, magazines, newsletters, and a variety of media are key preservers of America's fire service history. Their stories keep alive the events and people who might otherwise have been lost through generations of change. To thank and recognize the contributions authors make in preserving America's Fire Heritage, each year, the National Fire Heritage Center presents the Benjamin Franklin Fire Writer's Award.

In honor of Benjamin Franklin's unique combination of being a writer and publisher and simultaneously an advocate for fire protection in the community, NFHC created the Benjamin Franklin Fire Writer's Award to honor authors also dedicated to these missions.

Benjamin Franklin is recognized as the "Father of the American Fire Service." He is credited with the creation in 1736 of one of the first fire companies in the country. In almost any reference, whether it is fire prevention, fire suppression, fire engineering, or even fire education, his name is invoked as being among the first in this nation to be an advocate of fire and life safety. However, Franklin was most proud of his chosen trade: a printer. He made his fortune as a writer. Poor Richard's Almanac was only one of his efforts to convert ideas into words and act upon them in a meaningful manner. He had a profound impact not only on the fire service but upon our government, the insurance industry, our lifestyles, and the sense of self-assessment that still rings clear in contemporary society.

One of his efforts was to create the JUNTO — a club for mutual improvement — in 1736, which resulted in creating the first lending library, the creation of a volunteer fire company, the national postal system, and the insurance industry. All of these institutions exist in contemporary society today. Franklin left a vast legacy of written products. He encouraged writers to "go on record" as to their beliefs, observations, and support of public and private initiatives. Through the Benjamin Franklin Fire Writer's Award, the National Fire Heritage Center encourages today's fire writers to do the same.

How to Apply:

Anyone can nominate a printed, digital or electronic book or periodical. It can be a historical document written before 1940, a recent history document written between 1941 and 1970 or a document written since 1971.

Identify the type of document being submitted. Does it fit the Informational or Technical Category? In what format was it published? (*BOOKS*, e.g. Fiction, Non-Fiction, Biography/Autobiography, Trade Skill / Fire Services Trade Craft) (*PERIODICALS*, e.g. Newsletters, Magazines), or (*Digital / Electronic*).



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How to Apply (Cont.):

Describe on the nomination form what the document is about, and then how you think it meets each of the criteria. Each nomination will be judged by a panel of three judges and scored on its achievement of six criteria and its merit or contribution to America's fire service.

Nominations that receive a score of 90 or more will be given the Gold award. Nominations receiving 80 – 89 will receive the Silver award, and nominations receiving 70 - 79 will receive the Bronze award. Nominations receiving 60 and 69 will receive a "Nominated" certificate.

Enclose payment of \$18.00 application fee payable to National Fire Heritage Center either as a check or money order or pay electronically at <https://www.fireheritageusa.org/paypal> with receipt attached.

Submit the nomination form and a copy of the document by September 30 to:

Benjamin Franklin Writer's Award Committee
National Fire Heritage Center
PO Drawer 76
Emmitsburg, MD 21727

Contact:

Lynn White, Director
NFHC Benjamin Franklin Writer's Award Committee, Chair
WritersAward@fireheritageusa.org
979-696-8015



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Benjamin Franklin Writer's Award Nomination Form

Publication Information

Publication Title:

Publisher's name:

Publication date: () Prior to 1940 () 1941-1970 () 1971 to present

Category: *Identify the type of publication material being submitted.*

() Book

() Periodical

() Digital / Electronic

Nominator Information

Your name:

Your address:

Your phone number:

Your email address:

Nominee Information

Nominee's name:

Nominee's address:

Nominee's email address:



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Publication Synopsis

Please provide a one-page overview of the publication and the topic it addresses in the fire service.



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Category Responses

Please respond to each of the category questions reflecting the importance of this fire service writing to the fire service profession in the United States:

- **Aspect of Fire Service:** What aspect of the fire service does this publication address?
- **Impact on Fire Service:** What impact has this publication had on the fire service now or in the future?
- **Content Quality and Accuracy:** How well did the author capture accurate information related to the topic and present that information to the reader?
- **Stands Out from Other Publications of Similar Topic:** How does this publication approach the topic in a manner that differs from other publications of similar topic?
- **Readership / Circulation:** Describe the depth of reach this publication has made through out the fire service.
- **Creativity / Uniqueness of Approach:**



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Benjamin Franklin Writer's Award

Judging Criteria:

- Each category will have a three-person panel evaluating entries.
- Each panel will evaluate and score all entries in their category.
- Each panel will consist of at least one editor and one writer, with the third panelist, either a second editor or writer or a journalist or other person with fire service related to the category. Each judging panel will receive an orientation from the Benjamin Franklin Writer's Award committee chair regarding the judging process and criteria.
- Each entry is judged according to six criteria, each with 15 points (total of 95 points).
- Each panelist will add up to 10 points to each entry based on their overall view of the merits of the document to America's fire service history.
- Each panel will have up to 4 weeks to review all submissions in the category, and then submit numerical scores to the awards judging coordinator. Scores will be summarized with comments and e-mailed to category panelists to review in a zoom conference call and confer on final scores.
- Each panel will be convened via conference call to deliberate and reach a consensus on the final score for each entry nominated.
- To be considered for a nomination certificate, an entry must have a minimum average score of 60 (on a 100-point scale) from all three panelists.
- Nominations receiving a score of 90 or higher will receive the Gold Medal. Nominations receiving a score of 80-89 will receive the Silver Medal. Nominations receiving a score of 70 – 79 will receive the Bronze Medal. Nominations receiving a score between 60 and 69 will receive a "Nominated" certificate.
- Each team of panelists will make a summative statement from their comments regarding the merits of the publication and rationale for the award. This statement and copy of the document will be kept in the archives with the award history.

