

Blue Hen Book Award Schedule

Nomination/Rating Process:

January 1st – December 31st: Librarians, library staff, and community members can nominate a book(s) in the young, middle, and/or teen categories.

January/February: Blue Hen Book Award committee members are finishing reading/rating the books that were nominated the previous year in their category.

Blue Hen Rating System:

6 = Outstanding, noteworthy in style, content, and/or illustration.

5 = Superior, well above average.

4 = Recommended, satisfactory in style, content, and /or illustration.

3 = Recommended, with minor flaws.

2 = Marginal, seriously flawed, but with some redeeming quality.

1 = Unacceptable in style, content, and/or illustration.

Last Week in February: Ratings for each book, (that were nominated the previous year), are given to their chair by committee members. The committee chairs collect and tally each score, for each book, and then send the results to the YSD president.

March: The five nominees, (books nominated during January-December of the previous year), for young, middle, and teen categories are announced to Delaware youth/teen librarians by the YSD president. This is the time when librarians order copies of the nominees and set up displays in their library for the voting cycle.

Winter YSD Meeting (February or March): Blue Hen Book Award committee members are updated. Librarians who have finished their two year term may choose to participate in a different category or that position will be filled by another librarian.

Voting Process:

February 1st: YSD president announces to the public the winners of the Blue Hen Book Award from the previous year votes. This is to coincide with Love Your Library Month.

March: The YSD president sends out a letter of congratulations and a certificate to each winning author, in each category from the previous year's vote.

April 1st – October: Children and teens visit Delaware public libraries across the state to read and vote for their favorite book. Bookmarks, ballots, the Blue Hen display board, and copies of the nominees are put on display. Children/teens can now go online to vote:

<http://tinyurl.com/bluehenbookawardballot>

November: Ballot results are sent, via email directly to the president of YSD by each of three committee chairs – young, middle, and teen. The president only needs the total count for each book in each category.

December: YSD president announces the Blue Hen Book Award winners to Delaware library staff. The public announcement is made in February (see above).

Criteria for Nominating a Book:

- Anyone may nominate a book.
- Nominees must be published in the current year; plus the two previous years.
- Nominees must have at least two professional reviews from library sources, (whether print or electronic), such as Booklist, Library Journal, BookPage, School Library Journal, Publisher's Weekly etc.
- Nominees must fall with the three categories: young reader (age birth to 6), middle reader (age 7 to 11), and teen reader (12 to 17).
- Nominees can be part of a series, but must be the first book in the series or be able to stand alone.
- Audiobooks can be nominated, but must also be published in print format and must follow the same nominating criteria as books.
- All genres can be nominated: mystery, science fiction, romance, dystopian, LGBTQ, humor, etc.
- All format/types can be nominated: fiction, nonfiction, picture book, biography etc.