

BEST STEM BOOKS



BOOK CONTENT GUIDELINES

Deadline for Book Submissions: April 29, 2026

ABOUT THIS LIST

Nine reviewers appointed by ASEE, ITEEA, NSTA, and SEPA will read and evaluate the newly published books submitted for BSB in the fall. After voting and discussion, the CBC will coordinate a major announcement in February to our wide network of teachers, librarians, booksellers, and parents. The annotated list will appear in the 2027 February's *NSTA Reports* and ITEEA's *Children's Technology and Engineering* magazine and promoted through membership networks and at partner conferences.

ELIGIBILITY

- Books must be published in 2026. Books published in Oct.-Dec. 2025 may be eligible. (Email Sommer at sommer.wissner@cbcbooks.org for details)
- Books must be intended for grades K-12.
- Textbooks, workbooks, kits, experiment-only books, and activity books are *not* eligible.
- Original paperbacks are eligible; paperback reprints are not. If a book is published simultaneously in hardcover and paperback, either edition may be submitted. If both editions are submitted, they constitute separate entries.
- Books cannot be resubmitted if they have previously been reviewed by the committee.
- Revised editions of books originally published in North America before 2026 are eligible only if it has been newly illustrated or if substantial text—at least 25%—has been changed or added.
- Spanish-language editions published in North America simultaneously with English-language editions in 2026 are eligible.
- Fiction titles are eligible if the book has substantial Science, Technology, Engineering, or Mathematics content.

GUIDELINES

Books should have value for both classroom studies and library collections, supporting students' work. The selection panel looks for well-presented books that contain substantial STEM content, that are clear, accurate, and up to date.

- Modeling real-world innovation
- Embracing real-world design, invention, and innovation
- Connecting with authentic experiences
- Showing assimilation of new ideas
- Illustrating teamwork, diverse skills, creativity, and cooperation
- Inviting divergent thinking and doing
- Integrating interdisciplinary and creative approaches
- Exploring multiple solutions to problems
- Addressing connections between STEM disciplines
- Accurate content presented in an age-appropriate manner.
- Exploring Engineering Habits of Mind
 - Systems thinking
 - Creativity

- Optimisation
- Collaboration
- Communication
- Ethical considerations
- Critical thinking

Please keep in mind the following items to better curate your submissions:

- The content in the book is factually correct with no spelling, text, or illustration errors.
- Typeface must be clear, legible, and age-appropriate.
- Suggested activities, investigations, and/or experiments are safe, feasible, and appropriate for the intended age level. Activities should also reflect divergent thinking.
- STEM thinking is evident.
- The information and illustrations are free of gender, ethnic, cultural, or socio-economic bias, whenever possible.
- The layout is well-organized and advances the text.
- Books should not show behavior condoning harassment, sexual content, inappropriate language, and/or violence.

See [previous winners](#) for additional insights into what the committee looks for.

HOW TO SUBMIT

There are two ways to obtain the required spreadsheet that needs to be completed:

- If you prefer to download into Excel, [click this link](#) for a downloadable Google Sheet that can only be edited once it's opened in Excel (please see instructions on the spreadsheet for downloading). Once you have completed the sheet, please email to [Sommer](#).
- If you prefer to work in Google Sheets, [click this link](#) and then click on the blue USE TEMPLATE button in the upper right corner. This will create a duplicate spreadsheet for you to complete and save as your own. Once you have completed the sheet, please send to [Sommer](#) by hitting the SHARE button in the upper right-hand corner, adjusting permissions to Edit, and entering her email address: sommer.wissner@cbcbooks.org.

SHIPPING YOUR BOOKS

You will be asked to send one copy of each title to each of the 9 reviewers from July to October 2026. Until then, we ask that you do not ship any books until we email you shipping instructions.

FEES

- CBC Regular Members: No fee
- CBC Associate Members: ~~\$75~~ \$60 per title
- Non-Member Publishers: ~~\$300~~ \$250 per title

An invoice and payment instructions will be emailed to you after you submit your titles.