

2026 DON ARGO AWARD — OPEN FOR SUBMISSIONS

First presented in 2010, the Don Argo Award honors outstanding writing that reflects the spirit, setting, or storytelling strength of Florida. This annual award commemorates the legacy of Dr. Don Argo—beloved educator, author, passionate advocate for the literary arts, and founding member of the Space Coast Writers Guild.

Originally from Arkansas, Dr. Argo was a mathematics professor at Brevard Community College (*now Eastern Florida State College*) for 38 years. A driving force in the creation of the Space Coast Writers Guild, he also served as its president. His historical novel, *Canaveral Light*, published in 2001, received critical acclaim and beautifully captured the essence of Florida’s coastal heritage.

Dr. Argo passed away from cancer on October 19, 2008, at the age of 72. He is remembered not only for his contributions to education and literature but also for the kindness, wisdom, and creativity he shared with all who knew him. He was survived by his wife of 33 years, Kathy, four children, and two grandchildren.

The Don Argo Award is open to both members and non-members of the Guild. It continues his legacy by recognizing writing that captures the heart of Florida—its people, its places, and its stories.

Submission Guidelines

- Call For Submissions opens: June 1, 2026
- **DEADLINE: August 30, 2026, at 11:59 p.m. No Exceptions!**
- The book may be fiction or non-fiction (no poetry or children’s books).
- The book must have been published not more than three years immediately prior to the submission deadline.
- The book must be set substantially in Florida.
- The entrant must be a member of the Space Coast Writers Guild. Brevard County residents who are not Space Coast Writers Guild members may submit their work, along with a \$40 non-refundable entry fee, which will allow entry and earn them one full year of SCWG membership. Contact SCWG President Thomas Lofgren at president@scwg.org for more details.
- Submit the first 50 pages (8.5" by 11" paper format, double-spaced, Times New Roman font, 12 point font size) by email to donargoaward@scwg.org.
- Only one submission will be accepted per SCWG member.
- Winners from the past three years are not eligible.
- The judges’ decision are final.



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Additional Information

If you have written a book set in Florida or know of another author you would like to recommend for the Don Argo Award, please see our guidelines.

Authors may self-nominate or may be nominated by someone else.

Submissions must include the author's name, address, phone number, email, book title, and the year the book was published.

The submissions are reviewed and scored by three judges.

An engraved plaque, along with a \$250 check and a copy of Don Argo's novel *Canaveral Light*, will be presented to the winner in October.

Good Luck to all of the participants!