

Frequently Asked Questions for "Next Bestseller"

GENERAL INFORMATION

Q: What is "Next Bestseller"? A: "Next Bestseller" is a 5-episode televised competition for aspiring authors from Laurel, MD and surrounding areas. Contestants pitch their book ideas through multiple rounds for a chance to win a publishing contract with Quill & Company Publishing.

Q: Do I need a completed manuscript to apply? A: No! This competition is specifically for book ideas that have not yet been written. You only need a compelling concept to apply.

Q: What's the grand prize? A: The winner receives an exclusive publishing contract with Quill & Company Publishing, which includes a premier publishing package, media package, featured display in Mahogany Book store, and much more.

APPLICATION PROCESS

Q: How do I apply? A: Submit your application form with a 150-word book pitch and 100-word author bio by the May 21, 2025 deadline.

Q: What should my book pitch include? A: Your pitch should include your book title, genre, main concept/premise, what makes your book unique, and why you're the perfect person to write it.

Q: Is there an age requirement? A: Yes, applicants must be 10 years or older. Those under 18 must be accompanied by a parent/guardian at all events and need a parent/guardian signature on their application.

Q: I don't live in Laurel. Can I still apply? A: Yes, as long as you live within a 30-mile radius of Laurel, MD.

COMPETITION DETAILS

Q: What happens at the tryouts? A: At tryouts, you'll have 2-5 minutes to pitch your book concept to a panel of judges who will evaluate based on originality, marketability, and your passion.

Q: How many people advance through each round? A: 20 contestants will advance from tryouts to Round 1, then 12 to Round 2, 8 to Round 3, and finally 4 to the "Big Show" finale.

Q: Do I need to prepare anything for the rounds beyond my pitch? A: Yes. For Round 1, you'll need a 1-3 page book outline. In Round 2, you'll complete a writing prompt on-site. Each round has specific requirements outlined in the competition structure.

Q: Will I be on TV? A: Yes, all rounds of the competition will be filmed and aired on the Laurel TV Network.

LOGISTICS

Q: Do I need to be available for all competition dates? A: Yes, you must be available for all potential filming dates on May 24th, June 7th, June 14th, June 21st, and June 28th, 2025.

Q: Is there an application fee? A: It's free to apply!

Q: Can friends and family attend the tapings? A: Friends and family can attend the finale on June 28th. Information about tickets will be provided to contestants.

Q: What should I wear to the competition? A: Dress professionally but comfortably. Remember, you'll be on camera, so avoid busy patterns or all-white outfits. On the finale, you'll want to dress to impress!

JUDGING & SELECTION

Q: Who are the judges? A: The judging panel consists of industry leader booksellers and literary professionals, local officials, the CEO of Quill & Company Publishing, and local celebrities.

Q: How is the winner selected? A: The four finalists will present at the "Big Show," after which a live audience vote will determine the winner.

Q: Will I receive feedback on my pitch if I'm not selected? A: Unfortunately, due to the volume of applications, we cannot provide individual feedback on rejected applications.

AFTER THE COMPETITION

Q: If I win, when will my book be published? A: You will first be placed in Quill & Co.'s 3-month writing program then your book will be published shortly after the editing and design phase.

Q: If I don't win, can I still pursue publishing my book with Quill & Company? A: Absolutely! This competition is meant to discover and encourage talent. While only one contestant will win the publishing contract, all participants will be eligible for participation in Quill & Company's writing programs.

Q: Will there be opportunities for networking with publishing professionals? A: Yes, participants who advance through the rounds will have opportunities to interact with publishing professionals, including during the Q&A session in Round 3.