

How to plan a “Mock Pura Belpré Award” at your library



What is the “Pura Belpré Award”?

The [Pura Belpré Award](#) is a recognition presented to a Latino or Latina author and illustrator whose work best portrays the Latino cultural experience in a work of literature for children or youth.

What is a “Mock Award”?

This is a program in which a group of people discuss and select eligible books to win an award, pretending they are members of the Selection Committee.

Sometimes there is a pre-selection of titles and then people vote on the finalists, and other times people can vote for any eligible title, and those with the most votes win the mock award.

The *Association for Library Services to Children (ALSC)* compiles results from [Mock Awards](#) of all the Youth Media Awards. After your winners have been chosen it is fun to watch the announcement of the winners to see if the results match!

How to do a Belpré Mock Award program:

1. Select the [Pura Belpré Award](#) categories appropriate for the age-level of your audience. For example, you can work only with the children’s categories (author and illustrator) or the young adult category for teens, or you can have it for all ages and categories.
2. Decide if you will have a pre-selected list of titles to select from, or if you will let people vote for any title. Some libraries only list titles that the library owns. Some schools only list titles the children have read during the year.
3. Decide if you wish to have one round (voting all titles,) or two rounds: one to nominate titles as finalists and one to vote.
4. Decide if you will have a discussion of nominated titles before voting.
5. Prepare a ballot in an online form or vote in person.
6. Tally votes and announce your library’s winners.
7. Share the results with [ALSC](#).
8. Watch the [YMA announcements live](#) to see if your winners match the real winners!

Some suggestions:

- If you do more than one round and have a list of finalists, you can plan a discussion panel, where children, teens, or students must advocate for their favorite title.
- You can use questions based on the Award’s criteria, and have panelists discuss each title’s merits.
- You can create teams, assign a title to each team, and have them defend that title based on merits.
- You can plan a program based on your winning titles, with crafts, food, etc.
- You can plan a pajama party to watch the announcements (since they are usually early in the morning on a Monday in January.)