

# How to Contribute to the *New Era*

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The *New Era* is published for youth of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

## THANK YOU

Thank you for your desire to share your talents and experiences with our readers. The *New Era* could not fulfill its purpose without the help of contributors like you, and we welcome your submissions. We hope this guide will be useful, but the best way to get an accurate feel for what the *New Era* publishes is to read a number of recent issues. You can find the *New Era* online at [newera.lds.org](http://newera.lds.org).

## WHAT WE NEED

- **Personal Experience Stories:** We are looking for material that shows the gospel of Jesus Christ at work in the lives of young Latter-day Saints. We welcome stories about personal experiences, such as missionary work; conversion; family relationships; healthy, nurturing friendships; and maintaining standards.
- **How I Know:** A short (200 to 500-word) account of how you gained your testimony or discovered the benefits of living a gospel principle. What led up to the event? What was the experience like? How has it affected you?
- **Scripture Lifeline:** A short (200 to 500-word) account of how you faced a trial and found peace or a resolution by applying a particular scripture.
- **The Extra Smile:** Cartoons and short, humorous anecdotes about Latter-day Saint life.
- **Instant Messages:** Short personal experiences, original thoughts, and brief explanations of favorite hymns and scriptures.
- **Mormon-ads:** We accept ideas and suggested text for these parables-on-a-poster and do the final writing and photography ourselves. Study previously published Mormonads for examples of what works best.
- **Idea List:** A short (300 to 400-word) list of ideas for youth on a variety of gospel topics with a brief introduction on how they can use the list.
- **Poetry:** We accept most forms of poetry. Short poems under 30 lines are preferred.
- **Photos:** With photo stories, we prefer digital photos, but we can also use prints. Digital photos must be at least 300 dots per inch or taken on the largest setting of a five-megapixel camera or bigger. We also accept artistic photos for the “Photo of the Month” feature on the inside back cover.
- **Illustration:** We use both color and black-and-white illustrations, but assignments are made exclusively to artists who have shown their portfolio to our designers. You can send images to or make an appointment with the designers to let them see your work by using one of the addresses in “How to Prepare Your Manuscript” below.
- **Music:** We occasionally publish short songs or hymns. All music entries are reviewed and recommended for purchase by the Church Music Committee.

## HOW TO PREPARE YOUR MANUSCRIPT

- Type your name, address, and e-mail address in the upper right-hand corner of the first page.
- Send your manuscript to *New Era* Editorial, 50 East North Temple Street, Room 2414, Salt Lake City, UT 84150-0024, or to [newera@ldschurch.org](mailto:newera@ldschurch.org).

Please enclose a self-addressed stamped envelope with hard copies if you desire your manuscript to be returned in case it is not accepted.

## GENERAL INFORMATION

- The *New Era* accepts about 100 manuscripts per year and obtains a license to use the manuscript. We report back in 6 to 8 weeks.
- If you plan to submit a story with photos of an event, please consult with us well ahead of time before taking the photos and writing the story. Seasonal material should be submitted 12 months in advance.
- No responsibility is assumed for unsolicited manuscripts or photos.
- We do not pay authors for accepted manuscripts. All submissions are received as donations.
- We encourage responses to “Q&A.” The new question is published each month at the end of the section.
- We occasionally print a call for articles on specific topics. These usually appear in the “What’s Up?” section.

## THANKS AGAIN

We appreciate your interest in the *New Era*!

## Church Magazines Image Guidelines

For Illustrators and Photographers

## ILLUSTRATIONS

Please submit these through the Helping in the Vineyard site, [vineyard.lds.org/workspace/activity/5](http://vineyard.lds.org/workspace/activity/5), using the Contribute Photos Activity.

## PHOTOS

Please make us aware of available photographs of individuals, activities, or places described in upcoming articles. We also occasionally purchase artistic photos (submit as above for illustrations).

**Permission:** All identifiable people in photos need to sign a statement agreeing to Church use of their image. Those under age 18 need a statement signed by their parent or guardian. Keep all your permission statements. A Participant Release form for this purpose is available here.

**Captions:** Please provide the name of the photographer and the full name of each person in the photo. Use terms such as “from left” and “standing” to clearly identify each person.

**Digital photography:** Please use the highest resolution possible, five megapixels and 300 dots per inch or higher, and send the photos on CD or DVD. Low-resolution images may be accepted for preliminary review. Before sending high-resolution photos by e-mail, please contact us.

**Church standards:** All people in photos should observe Church standards of dress, grooming, behavior, and respect for property.

## GENERAL CONFERENCE PHOTOS

We want to represent the worldwide Church membership in the general conference issues of the magazines, so we welcome your photos of conference attendance in your area. Please remember, however, that we cannot guarantee that your photos will be published.

Submit up to five of your best photographs of people who through their lives and their modest and conservative clothing, jewelry, hairstyles, and makeup represent Church standards. Your photos should show joy and dedication in the faces of the members. Please review recent general conference issues to see what types of photographs we use.

For all your submitted photos, you need to have written permission. Please refer to *Permission* instructions above.

### Conference photography requirements:

1. Submit *high-resolution color* digital images (1–5 megabytes is sufficient). Files below 1 megabyte in size will probably be too small to be considered for publication.
2. **Submissions deadline: All photos must arrive via [LDS.org](https://www.lds.org) no later than 10:00 a.m., Salt Lake City time, on the Tuesday after general conference.**
3. If your photos are not available until after the deadline, submit them when they are ready, and we will consider publishing them in the subsequent general conference issue.

### Conference photos we regularly publish:

1. People in modest Church attire approaching the meetinghouse.
2. People in modest Church attire watching a broadcast of conference while sitting in the chapel or other meetinghouse room.
3. People in front of their television or computer monitor at home watching the general conference broadcast if this is how people typically view conference in your area. People shown participating in their homes can be dressed in modest, comfortable, and casual attire but NOT in pajamas or sleepwear.
4. Women and young women traveling to or attending the Young Women broadcast.
5. Women traveling to or attending the Relief Society broadcast.
6. Youth traveling to or attending any of the general conference broadcasts.
7. Men and boys traveling to or attending the priesthood session.
8. People traveling to general conference via subway, bus, car, bike, boat, or other means.
9. Missionaries attending general conference, especially with investigators. **Please do not submit photos with missionaries making hand gestures, funny faces, or engaging in goofy behavior.**
10. Families attending the various general conference broadcasts.

### Things to avoid:

- Do not submit blurry or out-of-focus photos.
- Do not submit photos of men's or boys' neckties loosened or with untucked shirttails.
- Do not submit photos with people making hand gestures, funny faces, or engaging in goofy behavior.
- Do not submit photos of women and girls with low or revealing necklines, gaping blouses, tight clothing, sleeveless or spaghetti-strap tops without a modest shirt worn underneath, clothing containing see-through fabrics, or any other distracting element that draws attention to the body.
- Women's dresses should cover the knees when sitting.

- Do not submit photos that show clothing with logos, text, or copyrighted images. Photos of people wearing clothing with distracting patterned prints will probably not be published.
- Avoid using a flash indoors because the people tend to be harshly lit, with bright highlights, dark shadow areas, and red pupils.
- In general, avoid any element that would distract from the reverence of general conference.

## **QUESTIONS**

We are grateful for your interest in the Church magazines. Please feel free to contact us via [ensign@ldschurch.org](mailto:ensign@ldschurch.org) or [liahona@ldschurch.org](mailto:liahona@ldschurch.org). Thanks again!