

# How to Contribute to the *Ensign*

Editorial Office: 801-240-2950 or 1-800-453-3860, ext. 22950

Subscriptions: Visit [store.lds.org](http://store.lds.org) or call 1-800-537-5971

**Note: The *Ensign* is not currently accepting poetry as we have a large collection on file.**

The *Ensign* is published by The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints for adults in English-speaking areas of North America, Great Britain, Australia, and New Zealand, and for other interested adults worldwide.

## Thank You

Thank you for your desire to share your talents and experiences with other readers. The *Ensign* could not fulfill its purpose without the help of contributors like you.

## What We Need

The *Ensign* accepts for review unsolicited manuscripts, but due to staff constraints, we cannot respond to article queries; it's best if you simply submit the article you have in mind.

Please note that all submissions are made on speculation; we cannot guarantee publication. Please also be aware that it takes many months, generally years, before we can respond to authors whose articles we are able to consider for publication.

Our general, ongoing needs are as follows:

- **Family Home Evening Ideas:** What was your most memorable family home evening? In 100 words or less, share what you did and the positive results it had for your family.
- **Gospel-in-Action Stories:** We publish articles in which members share testimony and describe blessings that come from obedience to gospel principles and covenants. Some may be dramatic stories of action and physical crisis, while others may deal with challenges overcome in the quiet chambers of the heart and mind—conversion, reactivation, resolution of lifestyle problems—but all illustrate the power of the gospel of Jesus Christ in changing and blessing lives.
- **Latter-day Saint Voices:** We publish short first-person articles focusing on an individual spiritual experience or insight that teaches a gospel principle. These brief narratives might be like a journal entry. Manuscript length: no more than 750 words.
- **Marriage and Parenthood:** Articles in this category are written by spouses and parents as well as by General Authorities, professional counselors, and teachers. To ensure a warm, personal feel, please include real-life experiences, stories, and examples. Helpful how-to's will encourage readers to put the principles into practice.
- **Poetry:** Since poems are published only occasionally in the *Ensign* and we have already received numerous submissions, we are not accepting poetry at this time.
- **Provident Living:** These articles contain practical ideas and motivation for being self-reliant and being prepared to cope with financial, physical, and emotional stresses.
- **Reflections:** Articles in this category are personal essays and reflections on gospel topics and may or may not be experience-based. Please limit submissions to 500 words.
- **Sabbath Day and the Sacrament:** In keeping with the current emphasis of Church leaders, we are interested in receiving articles on observing the Sabbath day, publicly and privately, and on the role of the sacrament.
- **Serving in the Church:** Share experiences you have had or insights you have gleaned that

have made you more effective as a leader, teacher, or learner in the Church.

- **Singles:** We publish articles on topics of interest to unmarried Latter-day Saints (never-married, widowed, divorced), particularly articles written by single members. Articles should share helpful insights and positive approaches to challenges faced by LDS singles of any age.
- **We Talk of Christ:** We welcome accounts of your gospel experiences relating to the Savior's ministry and mission as well as insights about Him. Possible topics might include the Atonement, grace, healing, hope, or repentance. Please limit submissions to 500 words.

Please label your submissions with one of these category names. *Manuscripts should be no longer than 2,000 words and, where noted, may need to be shorter.*

## Other Tips

Here are a few other things you might consider as you prepare your manuscript:

- **Base your writing on your personal experiences.** This is perhaps the best tip we can share. To get an accurate feel for what the *Ensign* publishes, we recommend reading a number of recent issues. You can find the *Ensign* online at [ensign.lds.org](http://ensign.lds.org).
- **Be doctrinally sound.** Include statements from living prophets and apostles in your work, and quote from the scriptures.
- **Keep your tone personal but not preachy.** Teach the principle but not the application. Let readers draw their own conclusions from the experience you share.
- **Submit your best efforts.** The editorial staff is happy to work with authors whose work is accepted to make the article the best that it can be, but please send us your best work. Take the time to spell-check your article and make other simple improvements.
- **Please submit only one copy of your work.** This will help our staff handle manuscripts effectively and efficiently. When you click the Submit button, you will get a verification screen (wait just a minute or two).

## What We Cannot Use

Unfortunately, there are some materials that we cannot use. Please do not send any of the following to the *Ensign*:

- **Manuscripts of which you are not the original author, including those written by deceased family members.** These are better kept in your personal family histories.
- **Manuscripts sent anonymously or under a pen name.** We do print articles under a “name withheld” byline occasionally, but we must have the author's actual name and contact information to be able to obtain rights to the article. Our staff will keep this information confidential, but we cannot work with text where there is no contact information given.
- **Manuscripts by or for children or teenagers.** Please send these to the *Friend* ([friend.lds.org](http://friend.lds.org)) or the *New Era* ([newera.lds.org](http://newera.lds.org)) magazines.
- **Near-death experiences or other exceptionally personal or sensitive material.**
- **Fiction, plays, self-promotion, or travelogues.** Again, it helps to review a recent copy of the *Ensign* to get a feel for what we do—and do not—publish.
- **Sacrament meeting talks, lessons, or other addresses you've given.** Often these have great content, but please take the time to turn them into an article before you send them to us. It's particularly helpful if you focus on personal experiences that were in the original address.

- **Advertising or promotion of commercial products**, even those created for an LDS audience.
- **Unsolicited, standalone photography or artwork.** If you have a picture to go with an article you're submitting—one that might be a helpful reference point for an illustrator—we can accept that. Most artwork and photographs appearing in the magazines are commissioned. However, you can submit photos, videos, and music to the Church by going to [create.lds.org](http://create.lds.org) or [music.lds.org](http://music.lds.org).
- **Queries for “I Have a Question.”** This department has been discontinued. Instead of writing to the magazine staff with your doctrinal or personal questions, please counsel with your local priesthood leader.

## Preparing Your Manuscript

- Please double-space everything—body copy, endnotes, quotations, titles, and headings.
- Include your name, address, email address, phone number(s), and ward and stake or branch and district on the manuscript itself, not just in the online submission form.
- Submit your manuscript online at [ensign.lds.org](http://ensign.lds.org). If you do not have computer access, please ask a family member or home teachers to assist you in submitting your article.
- Authors whose submissions are accepted will be notified. Since the magazine works so far in advance, it will be a minimum of a year and likely much longer before this happens.

## Remuneration, Copyrights, and Publication

- We accept donated submissions only.
- Once a manuscript is accepted and scheduled for publication, a staff member will contact the author with any questions or editing suggestions he or she may have. Because editorial planning begins at least a year in advance, an article you donate to the magazines will generally not be published for years.

## Thanks Again

We appreciate your interest in the *Ensign* and hope that this information will be helpful to you as you consider sharing your insights and experiences with other members of the Church.

(July 2017)