

How to Contribute to the *Ensign*

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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, and we welcome your submissions. We encourage readers to contribute letters to the editor, sharing insights, experiences, and comments about articles in the magazine. We also welcome manuscripts being proposed for publication.

What We Need

The *Ensign* accepts for review unsolicited manuscripts, but we encourage interested authors to see “Do You Have a Story to Tell?” (updated each month in the Contents section of the magazine and online at ensign.lds.org.) for specific topics of interest to the magazine. Due to staff constraints, we cannot respond to article queries; it’s best if you submit the article you have in mind.

Please note that all submissions are made on speculation; we cannot guarantee publication.

Our general, ongoing needs are as follows:

- **By Study and by Faith:** These Church history and other academic or scriptural articles are doctrinally sound and serve to edify members. We are particularly interested in articles written by members with expertise in academic fields.
- **Family Home Evening Ideas:** Do you have a memorable family home experience you would like to share, something other families could consider doing? We’re also interested in suggestions for improving family home evening.
- **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 and 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 department may be written by spouses and parents as well as by General Authorities, professional counselors, and teachers. To assure 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.
- **News:** We seek to publish news items that are of interest to members of the entire Church. Notify us of upcoming events as far in advance as possible, or send your report immediately after the event. *Please send these directly to cur-news@ldschurch.org.*
- **Poetry:** The poetry we publish is accessible to most readers while appealing to those interested in good poetic form. These poems are no longer than lines and use poetic devices like imagery, allusion, metaphor, rhythm, alliteration—the standard uses that make good poetry enjoyable and memorable. We’re most interested in poems with a gospel message.
- **Provident Living:** Articles on provident living serve to help readers prepare for emergencies, manage their finances, assist others in need, and generally be self-reliant.

- **Serving in the Church:** Teaching, leadership, serving at Church and at home, reaching out to others in the community—all are topics we are interested in. Manuscripts should be no longer than 400 words.
- **Singles:** We publish articles on topics of interest to unmarried Latter-day Saints, particularly articles written by single members. Articles should share helpful insights and positive approaches to challenges faced by LDS singles.
- **Until We Meet Again:** This back-page essay features personal essays and reflection on gospel topics and may or may not be experience-based. Please limit submissions to 500 words.
- **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 the above 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.
- **Read the magazines.** Study how the articles in the magazines are written. Consider the style, voice, and purpose. The approach, tone, and style you take should be appropriate for a worldwide audience.
- **Be doctrinally sound.** Include statements from living prophets and apostles in your work, and quote from the scripture.
- **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 and make other simple improvements.
- **Please send only one copy of your work.** This will help our staff handle manuscripts effectively and efficiently. For instance, do not send one copy electronically and one via mail or duplicate copies at separate times.

What We Cannot Use

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

- **Manuscripts written by someone else.**
- **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 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 longer than 2,000 words.** Space constraints do not permit us to accept work longer than this allotment.
- **Manuscripts by or for children or teenagers.** Please send these to the *Friend* (friend.lds.org) or the *New Era* (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. But generally all artwork and photographs appearing in the magazines are commissioned.
- **Ideas for "Random Sampler."** This department has been discontinued.
- **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, e-mail address, and phone number(s), and ward and stake on the manuscript itself, not just in the online submission agreement or cover letter.
- Submit your manuscript online at ensign.lds.org (preferred) or mail it to *Ensign* Editorial, 50 East North Temple Street, Rm. 2420, Salt Lake City, Utah 84150-3220, USA.
- Please note that due to the volume of submissions our staff receives, we cannot acknowledge receipt of or return any materials (even if you provide a self-addressed, stamped envelope). Authors whose submissions are accepted will be notified.

Remuneration, Copyrights, and Publication

We are happy to accept donated submissions but do not offer remuneration for manuscripts. When a manuscript is accepted for publication, a member of the magazines staff will send the author a publication agreement. Once the article is scheduled and the staff is ready to begin preparing it for publication, a staff member will contact the author with any questions or editing suggestions he or she may have. Because editorial planning begins many months in advance, an article you donate to the magazines may not be published for many months or even 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.