

# How to Contribute to the *Liahona*

Editorial Office: Phone: 800.453.3860, ext. 22210 or 801.240.2210 • Fax: 801.240.2270

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The *Liahona* is published by The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints for adults, youth, and children worldwide.

## Thank You

Thank you for your desire to share your talents and experiences with our readers. The *Liahona* could not fulfill its purpose without the help of contributors like you, and we welcome your submissions. Perhaps the best tip we can share with you is to base your writing on your personal experiences. To get an accurate feel for what the *Liahona* publishes, we recommend reading a number of recent issues. You can find the *Liahona* online at [liahona.lds.org](http://liahona.lds.org).

## WHAT WE NEED

We welcome submissions in the general categories listed below. Occasionally, we need articles on specific topics; watch for the heading “Call for Articles” printed from time to time in the magazine. Seasonal material, such as Christmas and Easter articles, should be submitted at least one year in advance. We accept articles in any language.

Our general, ongoing needs are as follows:

- **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, activation, resolution of challenges—but all illustrate the power of the gospel of Jesus Christ in changing and blessing lives. Manuscript length: 1,000–1,600 words.
- **Gospel Insights:** Explications of gospel doctrine are generally handled by General Authorities, but we do print articles by others that contain gospel insights based on the author’s personal experiences—for instance, when prayer, scripture study, and action led to a deepened testimony and understanding of a gospel principle. Focus the article on why you believe the principle and how you came to that testimony. Manuscript length: no more than 1,200 words.
- **Latter-day Saint Voices:** We publish brief true narratives describing a personal experience that gave the writer insight into a gospel principle. Manuscript length: no more than 750 words.
- **Marriage:** Articles on this topic may be written by members as well as by 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. Manuscript length: no more than 2,000 words.
- **Parenthood:** Articles on this topic may be written by parents as well as by teachers and professionals in childcare and guidance. Real-life experiences, stories, and examples included in the articles help readers relate them to their own situations. Helpful how-to’s encourage readers to put the principles into practice. Manuscripts length: no more than 2,000 words.
- **Singles:** We publish articles on topics of interest to unmarried Latter-day Saints (never married, widowed, and divorced), particularly articles written by single members. Articles should share helpful insights and positive approaches to challenges. Manuscript length: no more than 2,000 words.
- **News:** We seek to publish news items that are of interest to members of the Church in your area. Please notify us of upcoming events as far in advance as possible so we can arrange to

cover them when possible. Or send us reports of recent events as soon after the event as you can.

- **Specifically by and for Youth:** We are interested in articles written by and for youth, especially stories about youth who have made a difference in their school, family, or community by living gospel standards. We also accept short accounts (200 to 500 words) from youth of how they gained a testimony, discovered the benefits of living a gospel principle, or overcame a trial by applying a particular scripture. We also welcome ideas and suggested text for posters, but we do the final writing and photography ourselves.
- **Specifically by and for Children:** We need stories (no more than 1,000 words) that show the gospel at work in the lives of Latter-day Saint children, ages 3 to 12. These stories may be set in any culture, but they must be based on true incidents. Names, dialogue, and details may be fictionalized to better shape the story, but the main events and people must be factual. These stories need to be about real children discovering or applying gospel truths in overcoming real-life conflicts. Please don't write these accounts in straight narrative form like news items; rather, follow the rule "show, don't tell," pulling the reader into the experience with dialogue, sounds, sights, and smells. Tell the story from the child's perspective. We also publish family- and gospel-oriented puzzles and games, but these can't rely on word play because of translation differences. We welcome submissions from children, specifically stories in which they share the experiences they have had as they try to follow the example of Jesus Christ. We also accept drawings from them on gospel-related subjects. Articles by and for 9 to 12-year-olds are of particular interest to us.

## GENERAL INFORMATION

- We encourage readers to share insights, experiences, and comments about articles in the magazine.
- We are not interested in book-length manuscripts, fiction, plays, self-promotion, travelogues, near-death experiences, or exceptionally personal or sensitive material.
- Sacrament meeting talks cannot usually be converted to effective articles unless they include narratives of personal experiences that illustrate principles of the gospel
- Unsolicited manuscripts accepted for publication are considered donations to the Church and do not receive payment.
- Accepted manuscripts are scheduled for publication according to need. Accepted manuscripts will not appear for a year or longer.
- Subscriptions for the United States and Canada may be ordered by phone at 1-800- 537-5971 or at [store.lds.org](http://store.lds.org). Readers worldwide can order at [store.lds.org](http://store.lds.org) or by contacting their local Church distribution center.

## HOW TO PREPARE YOUR MANUSCRIPT

- If you are sending us a hard copy, please double-space everything—body copy, endnotes, quotations, chart copy, titles, and headings. E-mailed copies can be spaced normally.
- Include your name, address, telephone number, ward or branch, stake or district, and e-mail address at the top of the first page.
- We prefer submissions be made online at [liahona.lds.org](http://liahona.lds.org). You may also e-mail your submission in a standard word-processing format to [liahona@ldschurch.org](mailto:liahona@ldschurch.org). We also accept typewritten or, if necessary, handwritten manuscripts. Send your manuscript to *Liahona*, 50 E. North Temple St., Rm. 2420, Salt Lake City, UT 84150-0024, USA. If

you are mailing from within the United States and want your manuscript returned if it is not accepted, please enclose a suitable self-addressed stamped envelope.

## COPYRIGHTS

When an article is accepted, the author is required to sign a submission agreement that grants the Church license to publish it. A parent or guardian must give written permission for the Church to use articles, artwork, or photography by those under age 18 and to publish a photo of anyone under the age of 18. All identifiable people appearing in photos submitted for publication must sign a release allowing the Church to publish their image (form 37707, available by contacting us). When this form is not available, a written, signed statement from those in the photo will suffice. E-mail is also acceptable.

## PHOTOS

Please make us aware of available photographs of individuals, activities, or places described in your article.

**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.

**Captions:** Please provide credit and caption information for each photo. Give 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, the largest setting on a five megapixels camera 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.

**Film:** Please develop film before sending us slides or prints. Transparencies (slides) are preferred.

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

## ILLUSTRATIONS

Assignments are made only to artists who have shown their portfolio, but we are eager to know of those who have talent. Please contact us for information about portfolio review, or send samples by e-mail or as color transparencies (slides).

## MUSIC

We occasionally publish short songs or hymns. All music submitted is reviewed by the Church Music Committee.

## FEEDBACK IS WELCOME

We appreciate your interest in the *Liahona*! Please let us know how we can improve. E-mail us at [liahona@ldschurch.org](mailto:liahona@ldschurch.org).

## 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 [lihona@ldschurch.org](mailto:lihona@ldschurch.org). Thanks again!