

Contributors' Guidelines

The best way to get acquainted with who we are is to read several issues of the magazine. Copies should be available at most Barnes and Noble, Borders, Walden, B. Dalton, Missouri Wal-Mart stores, and other bookstores. You might also check your local library. *Missouri Life* also maintains a web site at MissouriLife.com.

OUR MISSION

Missouri Life is a four-color bimonthly magazine that explores the unique qualities of Missouri and its diverse people and places, past, and present. We emphasize heritage, travel opportunities for weekend getaways and day-trips, and interesting topics, people, and events that make Missouri a great place to live and visit.

FEATURES

HERITAGE Our features about aspects of Missouri's history bring the people and events of the past alive for our readers. Our millennium issue presented a capsule of the state's history during the past one thousand years. We've visited many historic Missouri homes and have presented a "you are there" story about Civil War reenactment. We've also included retrospectives on Jesse James and Bonnie & Clyde, with a focus on their time here in this state. These are just a few examples.

ROUNDUPS We select a subject, such as the Amish in Missouri or springs in Missouri, and present a general overview of the topic. A guide to Amish communities and stores (roundup) open to the public accompanied the Amish story. In the springs story we listed the largest ten springs accessible to the public with relevant information about location, facilities, and special features.

MISCELLANEOUS We're interested in just about anything that makes our readers say, "I didn't know that." Past miscellaneous stories have featured a boys' ranch, wild orchids in Missouri, and a Valentine's piece featuring romantic getaways and courtship stories.

We pay 20 cents a word for these features, which run in length from one thousand to two thousand words. We use *The Chicago Manual of Style*. Generally, we do not pay expenses.

REGULAR DEPARTMENTS

MISSOURI MEDLEY—PEOPLE, PLACES, & POINTS This department is home to short info-graphs, ideally, on people, events, and news, everything from Brad Pitt donating money to a hospital in Springfield to the Hot Dippity Dog end of summer pet event at Jefferson City pools.

ZEST OF LIFE—SHOW-ME ESSENTIALS This department spotlights the little extras in life. Missouri artists, musicians, books, museums, profiles, and more can be found here. We've featured the up and coming band The White Rabbits, an accountant artist out of Kansas City, a new Tom Berenger film, and more. These stories generally run from one hundred to three hundred words.

GET GOING—ADVENTURES, GETAWAYS, & ROAD TRIPS Both shorter and longer stories can be found in this department, depending on topic. Getaways for chocolate lovers, theater lovers, nature lovers, and adventure lovers, and Missouri's best rock climbing spots are a couple of recent featurettes, which generally run eight hundred to twelve hundred words.

SHOW-ME FLAVOR—RESTAURANTS, RECIPES, & CULINARY CULTURE Missouri has a rich food tradition, including toasted ravioli, a unique Springfield twist on cashew chicken, the ice cream cone, and more. This department showcases food, recipes, and restaurant recommendations. Flavor stories run eight hundred to twelve hundred words, and include recipes from the sources. Restaurant reviews are about 150 words.

MissouriLife

2008 International Regional Magazine Association's "Magazine of the Year"

MISSOURI LIFESTYLE—INSPIRED IDEAS & SAVVY SOLUTIONS This department features lifestyle topics like fashion, health, and homes. Some of the stories that have been published include a home story on a lodge made from reclaimed materials, a fashion story about a Missouri designer, and a profile on bereavement photographers. Story length in this section ranges from two hundred words to twelve hundred words.

QUERIES

Query by e-mail or regular mail, please. Photographers may e-mail samples of their work. Please identify yourself as a freelance writer or photographer, as we get many ideas submitted by readers for use for free. Please also include "query" in the subject line. Include your phone, e-mail address, and home address. You may write to us at query@missourilife.com; fax: 660-882-9899; or mail to: Managing Editor, *Missouri Life* Magazine, 515 E. Morgan St., Boonville, MO 65233. Please include copies of published work and a résumé or bio.

We will read stories submitted on speculation. If the story is not yet written, please submit an outline with specific ideas, including general approach, and a general idea of sources, plus previously published clips or a sample of your writing, if unpublished.

Please realize that generic ideas are submitted by many writers. Don't expect that a story idea on a subject like apple butter making, the Trail of Tears State Park, Kansas City's jazz district, or the city of Sedalia will automatically preclude a story on that topic by a different writer.

Due to the volume of queries we receive, responses may take up to four to six weeks.

GENERAL GUIDELINES

Every story must appeal to a statewide audience. It must have a clear tie to the state of Missouri.

Please submit stories electronically. We need one copy of the story annotated with sources for accuracy checking. Please supply source names and contact information (phone, e-mail, fax, and address).

You will be edited by professionals for length, clarity, style, and accuracy. We expect that you will help us maintain accuracy during the editing process. We ask that writers share their stories with sources for accuracy purposes. In addition, we send edited text to original sources to aid us in fact-checking and ensure no errors are contained in final manuscripts.

We pay upon publication for both writing and photography. We will negotiate package prices for freelancers who provide both story and photography.

PHOTOGRAPHERS We pay \$50 per photograph if we use a single photograph in regular department pages. We pay a negotiated package price, for photographs to accompany feature stories, depending on both number and quality. Bonus for covers.

We need signed photo releases from human subjects giving us rights for editorial as well as future promotional use. If you need a sample release, please let us know, and we can provide one to you. Our policy is to identify every person in every photo (except crowd scenes) by name, hometown, and age, if appropriate. We prefer digital images (minimum 300 dpi) but also accept color slides or prints.

All writers and photographers must sign our non-exclusive, unlimited copyright license for each assignment. This contract permits you to re-sell your work but allows us to use it for other purposes without additional compensation. In some cases, a work for hire agreement is required.

The Spirit of Discovery