

# Prairie Times

## WRITER'S GUIDELINES

**The Prairie Times** is a family friendly publication with a country flavor. We welcome submissions that fit this format from writers across the United States.

**Our Goal:** is to provide inspirational and uplifting content to combat our culture's negativity and division. Stories should follow a creative, proactive format aimed at fostering positivity in the reader.

**We Want:** writers with a unique voice, excited about their own and our readers' and community's greater potential.

**Such as:** funny, touching, or heartwarming stories. Stories of triumph over adversity, of lessons learned, of wisdom, or encouragement for others. Historical nonfiction could focus on nostalgia, articles on local history, anecdotes, the cowboys, ranchers, and heroes of the old west, and on Colorado history. Any nostalgic pieces should focus on the sense of a simpler (not better, just different) time. We are interested in material to help our readers learn better social skills or present them with creative ideas ("how to stay in touch with a grandchild six states away..." etc). We love animal stories; but end them *before* the pet dies! Any pictures need to be high resolution.

**E-mail to:** [charity@prairietimes.com](mailto:charity@prairietimes.com)  
as a Word attachment  
or in the body of the e-mail.  
**Mail to:** Prairie Times Editor  
PO Box 880 Byers, CO 80103

### **We Do Not Accept:**

Hunting stories.  
Profanity.  
Negativity.  
Rants.  
Autobiographical articles (choose one incident or focus on traits).

### **Word Limit / Payment:**

Nothing under 400 words.  
400 words: \$5  
500 words: \$10  
600 words: \$15  
700 words: \$20  
800 words: \$25  
900 words: \$30  
950 words: \$35  
Nothing over 900 words.

Authors receive payment based on final word count (post-editing), two to three weeks after the issue date.

We buy first time rights, which means we purchase the right to reprint your story without future reimbursement.

**Include your name and address with all submissions.**



## editor tips

### **Think ahead.**

Our editors fill the quota months in advance. Send Valentine's Day and spring stories in mid-winter. In spring, send in summer stories. In summer, send in autumn stories (Halloween, Thanksgiving). In early autumn, send in Christmas stories.

### **Focus on the story, not the facts.**

Enhance the details for dramatic effect. Your goal is to *entertain*. Good writers know when to exaggerate.

### **Learn from your editor.**

Good writing involves practice with intent; notice what corrections the editor makes to your story and focus on eliminating similar 'flaws' as you move forward.

### **Never send the first draft.**

Send the final draft. Choose what you send with care; the editor will only pick the best.