

Story Submission Guide for *Esprit* Magazine

All submissions to *Esprit* Magazine are welcomed. We encourage you to keep us informed of noteworthy activities you or your units have accomplished.

FORMAT: Please e-mail your contributions as Word files whenever possible, and send us your best photos as JPEG attachments. Do not embed your images in Word documents.

REMEMBER THE FIVE W's :

In preparing your stories, remember to include:

WHO: Name the people involved. Include any ranks or titles. If you meet or interview somebody, please tell us their name. Make sure names are spelled correctly!

WHAT: What was the activity? Was it a memorial ceremony, a fundraising event, a sporting event, or a parade?

WHERE: Be sure to tell us where the activity occurred. Be sure to tell us the name of the event, park or building. Give us the full official name.

WHEN: Tell us when the activity took place. Weekday? Weekend? Morning? Evening? The exact date?

WHY: Tell us why your unit participated in this activity, and how it relates to our program's core values of discipline, leadership, and teamwork.

ALSO: Remember to take a minute to check the facts of your story, particularly as they relate to historical events or important dates in our nation's history.

Please remember that due to space limitations and out of courtesy to our readers, we usually do not print more than two articles from the same unit on the same topic in the same issue. When a number of Young Marines from one unit send in articles on the same theme, we combine them.

If you would like your original article to be printed with the least amount of cutting, it's best to choose a topic that no one else in your unit is writing about.

Remember, too, that this is a great opportunity to tell your fellow Young Marines (as well as the general public) of what you are learning and enjoy most about being involved with our program.

Read these two examples here to see how to include useful information and points of interest.

A Bad Example:

We have an Armed Forces Week every year in San Antonio, Texas, and a group of us from my unit visited the Museum at Stintson Field, on the south side. Inside two hangars and outside, many aircraft, ground vehicles and old uniforms from different eras are on display. The old planes were awesome!

Our guide showed us some of the features of the old airplanes on display, big ones and little ones. We also saw many different photos that showed airfields and bases in the area, and how the different bases have different jobs to do.

We learned a lot about old airplanes and how dangerous flying used to be in the old days. Most of us bought t-shirts in the gift shop afterwards. They even invited us back!

A Better Example:

In observance of our city's annual Armed Forces Week celebration held during the first week of May, my Young Marine unit visited the Texas Air Museum at Stintson Field, located in San Antonio Texas. Stintson Field was established in 1915 and is the second oldest general operation airport in continuous operation in the United States.

Volunteers have brought together an interesting collection of aircraft from different eras, and these are displayed in two hangars and outdoors on the grounds of the museum.

Our guide, Mr. John Tosh, took the time to show us some of the features of a few of the aircraft on display. These include a full size replica of a Bleriot monoplane from the early days of aviation and a rare German fighter plane from WWII, an FW 190.

Also on display were a restored Model T Ford ambulance from WWI, and a Jeep from WWII. Photos showing the history of aviation in South Texas are displayed alongside uniforms, flight helmets, aircraft engines, and other interesting items.

We learned that Air Force bases in the San Antonio area were at one time involved in flight training, logistic support and aerospace medicine missions, and how they all contributed to our nation's defense and even played a role in our exploration of space.

The museum website is www.texasairmuseum.org.

See submission procedure information on our website: www.youngmarines.com/members

Photo Submission Guide for *Esprit* Magazine: Remember **SLICK!**

We're getting SLICK:

In order to help remember some of the general guidelines for taking good photos, think of the word "SLICK":

To explain,

SUBJECT: Make sure that your main subject is at the center of your photo and in focus. Know your subject -- who are they? Write down their first and last names and any ranks or titles. If they are elected officials, obtain that information, also.

LOCATION: Consider what's in the background, and use that to help tell the story. It's not always easy to control what is in the background, but sometimes moving a few feet to one side or other will help make for a better photograph.

IN FOCUS: Check that your photos are in clear focus.

COMPOSITION: Take a few brief moments to group people closer together. Take an additional shot or two, with people standing in a different grouping.

KNOWLEDGE: Know who and what is being photographed. Jot down details, titles, spelling, or contact information. Obtain a business card, website, or e-mail information from the persons in your photograph, so you may contact them with any questions.

At *ESPRIT*, we need your photos!

All submissions of photos to *Esprit* Magazine are especially encouraged and welcomed. We encourage you to take plenty of photos to document your activities and share them with your fellow Young Marines.

Send us your best photos as JPEG attachments. If you're shooting with a digital camera, a camera of 4 Megapixels or above should be satisfactory.

We offer a few suggestions here for improving the quality of photo submissions.



*That's me, in the second row!
If group photos appear this small, it's difficult to see who is in them.*

to be able to identify those in the photo.

Get some "action" in your pictures. For example, people talking to each other, shaking hands, participating in an activity, etc. Just think, what makes a better picture, the basketball player shooting a basket or the same player sitting on the bench during a time-out?

Try not to have everyone lined up and looking directly at the camera. One way to avoid this is to ask your subjects to look over your shoulder.

If you are taking photos with something in the background (i.e., skyline, famous structure, or statue) don't forget what the focus of the photo is: the people. Focus your camera on the people in the picture and get close enough so that you can see them and they are the center of the attention. Move in on your subject and minimize the background.

Have your subjects remove sunglasses. If they are wearing hats, or covers, be sure that you can see their eyes.

Seek out photo opportunities that show emotion, not blank expressions. For example, when talking with a veteran, it's perfectly acceptable to smile or maintain a respectful expression, whatever is appropriate. Be yourself!

Search for good lighting conditions. Since you can't control the weather, if it happens to be a sunny day then just be aware of the shadows in your pictures.



Portrait



Landscape, or horizontal

As a general rule, ACTION or ACTIVITY photos are preferred over lining everybody up against a wall for a group photo. It's better not to show too many people at one time. It is best to have no more than 3-4 people per shot.

This doesn't mean that you shouldn't take group pictures, but remember that *ESPRIT* rarely publishes photos of large groups of people, for the simple reason that we seldom have enough room to publish the photo large enough