

About Our Magazine--*Guideposts Sweet 16* is a general-interest magazine for teenage girls (ages 11-17) published by Guideposts. It is a bimonthly, four-color publication that offers teens **TRUE, first-person stories** about real teens. Our watchwords are "wholesome," "current," "fun," and "inspiring." *Sweet 16* has it all: fashion, beauty, celebs, boys, embarrassing moments, advice columns. We'll publish the occasional action/adventure story, but **our ongoing focus will be on relationships and real-life teen issues: friendship, romance, peer pressure, etc.** We need "light" stories about finding a date and learning to drive -- as well as catch-in-the throat stories. Language and subject matter must be current, uplifting, and teen-friendly. **No preaching or lecturing, please!**

A sample issue of *Sweet 16* is available: Send \$4.50 to Guideposts, 39 Seminary Hill Road, Carmel, NY 10512, Attn: Special Handling.

Sweet 16 is **not a beginner's market. We do not publish poetry or fiction.** Areas of interest to freelancers include include the following; those indicated with *** are the best opportunities for freelancers to break in to our publication:

TRUE STORIES--Five each issue. 400-1,200 words. A typical *Sweet 16* story is a first-person narrative by a teen, written in a simple, dramatic, anecdotal style. The story may be the writer's own or one written in the first person for someone else. We are seeking mainly girl narrators, but will consider an occasional boy-narrated story. (If ghostwritten, no "as told to" byline given. But we will make out the check in your name...) Please keep the following in mind:

Don't try to tell an entire life story in a few pages. Focus on one specific happening in a teen's life. Bring in as few people as possible so that our interest stays with the narrator.

Decide what your point, or "takeaway," will be. Everything in the story should be tied in to this specific theme.

Don't leave unanswered questions. Give enough facts so that the reader will know what happened. Use description and dialogue to let the reader feel as if she were there. Dramatize the situation, conflict, and struggle. Then tell how the teen was changed for the better or the problem was solved.

Most important: Study the magazine. (Sure, you've heard it before -- but it's true!) You can also read some sample true stories we've published by visiting our **True Stories** section on this site.

*****MYSTERIOUS MOMENTS** -- "Strange-but-true" stories. Miracles. Unexplained coincidences. Girl or boy narrators. Tell us what happened in around 250 words. Note: These can either be ghostwritten for teens, or adults writing about their teen years. Be sure voice is "teen." Send full manuscript.

This tells you that articles must be for girls ages 11-17. They only publish TRUE first person stories. Which means: "I went to the store." Make sure you take this stuff into consideration when writing an article for them.

Send for a sample issue to study the kinds of articles that they publish. You want your article to look like the ones they publish before you send it in. Always send a 9X14 Self Addressed Stamped Envelope with your check.

This means they want extremely professional submissions!

No poetry or fiction! Never send in something that a magazine doesn't publish, They won't publish it!

The best thing to do is read a few of them from a copy of their magazine to see how they look and sound.

These are really short and a good first article to try. Go for it!

POSITIVE THINKER -- A single-page feature on a teen girl who has overcome something remarkable and has kept a positive outlook. (A cheerleader with no arms. A girl who adopted a dog from an animal shelter and competes with him in shows.) Text is a series of bulleted items in first-person, a catchy tag followed by a few lines of text. Be sure this tells us a story -- rich in anecdotes, dialog. 300-500 words. **Query.**

This means don't bother writing the whole article until you ask us first. If we like your idea, we'll ask you to write it. Look on my website for a sample query letter.

TGTBT -- Profiles of boys who are "Too Good to Be True." We're seeking guys to profile who are cute, wholesome, and doing something very, very cool. (We can only run 6 of these per year, so we're really choosy!) TGTBTs we've profiled include a stunt pilot, a hot-air balloonist. **Query with a photo.**

They want you to send a photo in with the query letter.

DIY -- Trendy crafts, do-it-yourself fashion & beauty, bedroom accessories...anything that a teen girl would find cool, fun, easy to create. We see a lot of this material...query with something original! Seasonal ideas always welcome. **Send snapshot of finished project.**

They want you to send a photo in with the article manuscript.

BEAUTY/SELF-HELP -- Fun, trendy, seasonal pieces about a single topic in beauty. We'll consider health-related, safety-related, consumer-type pieces here, also. (Example: How to Stop Biting Your Nails--Once and for All!) 500-1,000 words. **Query.**

*****QUIZZES** -- 500-900 words. Teen issues, approached with humor. "Are You Rude?" "Are You Dating a Dud?" "Are You Crushing Too Much?" We are seeking both multiple-choice quizzes and quizzes in other, more graphic-based formats. **Query with sample questions.**

This is how much they pay. They pay REALLY well! Most magazines don't pay this much. They don't pay until you get that lovely acceptance letter in the mail or email.

Now...about the \$\$\$. True stories range in payment from \$300-\$500, occasionally higher. Will pay approved expenses. Shorter manuscripts (100 - 750 words) pay \$100-\$300. Payment on acceptance. Buys all rights.

All manuscripts must be typed, double-spaced. A self-addressed, stamped envelope is essential. Please allow two months for a reply (but we'll try to get back to you sooner). Send to:

Guideposts Sweet 16
1050 Broadway, Suite 6
Chesterton, IN 46304

They want professional manuscripts with a SASE. You won't hear back for at least two months.

or via e-mail to:

writers@sweet16mag.com

Mail your manuscript to this address.

They also accept email subscriptions. Never email a subscription if they don't say they allow them in their guidelines.