

Kindred Mom Submission Guidelines

Updated 3/5/2021

We are honored to welcome you to our little corner of the internet. Since the beginning, the Kindred Mom platform has been about moms coming together, reflecting on their experiences, and telling their stories in order to encourage and inspire other mamas in the trenches.

The Kindred Mom is a beautiful collaborative endeavor—bringing together the creativity and skill of many women in order to publish stories of hope for moms in the weeds.

We offer truth, encouragement, and guidance to moms who are navigating the challenges and joys of motherhood, and we love to feature essays that reflect the values and tone we have established throughout our community: one of grace, support, and a high value for the role of “mama”.

We are a Christ-honoring community, and also acknowledge that women in our midst are from diverse faith and geographical backgrounds. We will decline any submitted content that does not honor the dignity and beauty of all women, the value of every child, and we prefer essays exhibit a clearly humble tone. We request writing that honors the diversity of our readership and various expressions of Christian faith.

We are committed to encouraging moms through supportive, and honest stories about motherhood experiences. We value artistry, storytelling delivered with skillful attention, biblically-grounded truth, and stories that capture the hope of the Gospel of Jesus Christ for moms and their children. We publish stories that empower moms to respond to real-world, ordinary challenges with wisdom.

The strongest submissions are authentically vulnerable, full of rich details, do not try to cover too much in a short space, and drive home a single hero line / idea / encouragement / truth for the mom who might resonate with your story. We love when an essay captures the details of a real life experience, allows the reader to feel what you are feeling, and sends them away with hard-won wisdom. We carefully curate what appears in our space and do not accept essays that come across as preachy or superior in tone.

Submission Guidelines:

Essays accepted for feature are subject to our editorial process. We reserve the right to edit for spelling, punctuation, grammar, and clarity at any time prior to publication. If our editors require any significant changes beyond the above, we communicate directly

with the writer to accomplish updates to the essay in a supportive and collaborative manner. To aid in the editorial process, writers should be familiar with Google docs.

We are glad to receive more than one piece per deadline if you're so inclined to write more than one.

Essays should be between 600-1200 words, but we are more concerned with strong writing than a firm word count.

If incorporating quotes from Scripture or outside sources, please be judicious and ensure they are artfully applied, and consider how you might distill the meaning of them into your own words for the best flow of language and thought. We prioritize good storytelling and avoid pieces that sound like they're written exclusively for a "churched" audience. The hope of Jesus is for everyone!

We encourage you to have someone proofread your essay before submitting it. We will not be able to accept essays that require too much editing in order to make them ready for publication.

Please do not submit an essay under an alias. If privacy is a concern for you, make note of it in your submission. If we choose to publish your essay, we will be in touch about how to properly credit you and also maintain your privacy.

We will source photos to accompany your essay if needed. Please do not send us images, aside from the bio photo we will include with your credits.

Please complete all the relevant fields in the submission form. If you do not have a proposed title to offer, please put "(Title TBD)." We reserve the right to choose an alternative title at our discretion.

We now aim to share audio versions of each featured essay on the Kindred Mom podcast feed as well as the Kindred Mom blog. If your piece is selected to be featured on the blog, you will have the opportunity to record the audio version of the final draft in your own voice with a member of the Kindred Mom team.

Frequently Asked Questions

When should I hear back about my submission?

For each series, we will make every effort to communicate with you about whether or not your piece has been accepted for publication within 30 days after the deadline,

likely sooner. If you do not hear from us in that timeframe, please feel free to email hello@kindredmom.com with any questions or to request a status check.

Can I plug my book or product in my post if my essay is selected?

We minimize advertising-speak as much as possible on Kindred Mom. However, if you have a book, product, or personal opt-in resource you would like to draw attention to, you may do so with a hyperlink in your bio (provided your book/product meets certain criteria). We reserve the right to remove links for any reason. In your submitted bio, please note the appropriate URL for your project.

What should I do on the day my essay is featured?

We appreciate when contributing writers take action to promote the post to their personal circles, online platform, and social media accounts. We appreciate when you share on Instagram and Facebook, and we also encourage you share any promotional posts you see published by Kindred Mom.

If you have a personal blog, we would love for you to post an excerpt of the post on your blog, with a link to the full post on Kindred Mom. Writers who send a note to their email subscriber list with a link to their post on Kindred Mom are the bees knees.

We request 30 days exclusivity from the date of publication on Kindred Mom, after which we support writers sharing their essay in another venue. At that time, include a link to the original post on our web site, as well as the following text: "This piece originally appeared on KindredMom.com". We also recommend that you change the title and the first 100 words of the piece (with an intro or edit), if you plan to post the essay in full in another space, but that is mostly for SEO considerations and we do not follow up about this.

What kind of feedback can I expect to receive on my essay?

We are unable to provide specific feedback on every essay submitted, but we offer generous notes on essays accepted for feature to help ready them for publication. For anyone who is not accustomed to this editorial process, it can be surprising to have edits requested from our team. We deeply value the offerings of writers who share work with us, and we offer this feedback to polish the piece for our audience and also because we are passionate about investing in writers. We hope you can receive our suggestions with humility and a willingness to strengthen your already lovely piece. If we're offering notes, it's because we see value in your essay and we want to help you make it as strong as possible.

If you have any other questions about writing for Kindred Mom, please direct them to Emily Sue Allen ~

hello@kindredmom.com

Thank you again for your interest in writing for our community! [Click here](#) to submit a piece. We look forward to reading your essays.

Warmly,
The Kindred Mom Editorial Team

P.S. Please add hello@kindredmom.com to your address book so you won't miss out on future writing opportunities.