

# TOUCH THE EARTH

## Contributor Guidelines

Submission process for writing, artwork, and other contributions

Touch the Earth · touch-the-earth.life

### A welcome note

*Touch the Earth exists because people who live close to the land have things worth saying — and a community deserves to hear them. We welcome writing, artwork, and reflections from anyone walking this path, regardless of experience, credentials, or whether you've ever published anything before.*

*The only requirement is honest attention to the living world. If you have that, your voice belongs here.*

## What We Publish

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### Writing

<b>Essays</b>	Personal, reflective, or practical essays on any aspect of regenerative living: gardening, foraging, land tending, seasonal rhythms, community, food, craft, or your own relationship with the Earth. 500–2,500 words preferred.
<b>Poetry</b>	Any form. We lean toward the grounded and sensory rather than the abstract, but trust the poem to know what it needs to be. No length requirement.
<b>Stories</b>	Short fiction or narrative non-fiction rooted in the natural world. Up to 3,000 words.
<b>Reflections</b>	Shorter, more personal pieces — a moment, an observation, a question you're sitting with. 150–600 words.
<b>Guides &amp; How-tos</b>	Practical knowledge shared generously: how to make something, grow something, preserve something, or do something with your hands. Any length, with photos welcome.

### Artwork & Images

<b>Painting &amp; Drawing</b>	Originals or reproductions of work in any medium — watercolor, oil, ink, pastel, pencil. Submit as high-resolution JPG or PNG (minimum 1500px on the long edge).
<b>Photography</b>	Documentary, landscape, botanical, or process photography. Natural light preferred. Minimum 1500px, JPG or PNG.
<b>Craft &amp; Handwork</b>	Photos of weaving, ceramics, basketry, dyeing, woodwork, or other handmade objects. Include a short description of materials and process.
<b>Illustration &amp; Print</b>	Linocut, woodblock, screenprint, botanical illustration, maps, or other graphic work. High-resolution scan preferred.

### What We Don't Publish

- Content primarily promotional or commercial in nature
- Work that degrades, stereotypes, or harms communities or individuals
- Content unrelated to the themes of Earth connection, nature, regenerative living, or community
- AI-generated writing or artwork (we're a publication of human voices)
- Previously published work without disclosing where it appeared first

## Submission Process

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### Step 1 — Prepare Your Submission

Before submitting, make sure you have:

- A finished or near-finished piece (we welcome works-in-progress for advice, but formal submissions should be ready to publish)
- A brief bio (2–3 sentences) and your preferred byline name
- An optional artist/author note — a few sentences about the piece, what prompted it, or how it was made (shown alongside the published work)
- For artwork: image files at the specifications above
- For writing: text in a standard format (.doc, .docx, .pdf, or plain text)

### Step 2 — Submit via Our Form

Submit using the form at: [touch-the-earth.life/submit](https://touch-the-earth.life/submit)

The form will ask for:

- Your name and email address
- The type of submission (writing / artwork / guide / other)
- The title of your piece
- A short description (2–3 sentences)
- File upload or link to your work
- Your bio and preferred byline
- Your consent to our submission terms (see below)

If you have trouble with the form or want to send multiple pieces, email us at [info@touch-the-earth.life](mailto:info@touch-the-earth.life) with "Submission" in the subject line.

### Step 3 — What Happens Next

<b>Acknowledgement</b>	You'll receive an automatic confirmation email within minutes of submitting. If you don't see it, check your spam folder.
<b>Review period</b>	We review all submissions within 4 weeks. During busy periods (before quarterly 'zine deadlines) this may extend to 6 weeks.
<b>Our response</b>	We will reply to every submission with one of: Accept, Accept with minor edits, Invitation to revise and resubmit, or Decline (with a brief reason when possible).
<b>Editing</b>	We do not heavily edit submitted work. If we suggest changes, we will always discuss them with you first. You have final say over any edits to your piece.
<b>Publication</b>	Accepted work is published on the website and/or included in the next quarterly 'zine. We will tell you in advance which issue your work will appear in.

# Submission Terms

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## Your rights (you keep them)

Submitting to Touch the Earth does not transfer your copyright. You retain full ownership of your work.

## What you grant us

By submitting, you grant Sheltering Hills Design, LLC a non-exclusive license to:

- Publish your work on the Touch the Earth website
- Include your work in the quarterly digital 'zine (PDF and email format)
- Promote your work on Touch the Earth social media channels, with credit to you
- Archive your work on the site for an indefinite period

This license is non-exclusive, meaning you can publish your work elsewhere at any time. We ask only that you mention Touch the Earth if you republish something we published first.

## Previously published work

We accept work that has been previously published elsewhere, provided you tell us where it appeared and confirm you have the right to republish it.

## Compensation

Touch the Earth is a community publication. We are not able to offer payment at this time. Contributors receive:

- A byline and bio on every piece
- A link to your website or social media of your choosing
- A contributor copy of the quarterly 'zine (PDF)
- Our genuine gratitude, and a readership that cares about the same things you do

If the site grows to a point where revenue supports it, we are committed to introducing contributor payments. We will contact all past contributors first.

## Privacy

Your email address is used only to communicate with you about your submission. It is not added to our newsletter list without your separate consent. See our Privacy Policy for full details: [touch-the-earth.life/privacy-policy](http://touch-the-earth.life/privacy-policy)

# Frequently Asked Questions

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<b>Do I need to be an experienced writer or artist?</b>	No. We care about honest attention and genuine voice, not credentials or publication history.
<b>Can I submit more than one piece at a time?</b>	Yes, up to three pieces per submission. If you have more, wait until you hear back before sending additional work.
<b>How long should my piece be?</b>	See the "What We Publish" section above. When in doubt, err shorter — a tight 600-word essay often lands better than a loose 2,000-word one.

<b>Can I submit work I made with AI assistance?</b>	We publish human-authored work. Light use of AI for editing (e.g. grammar checks) is fine; AI-generated content is not.
<b>What if my piece doesn't fit a category?</b>	Send it anyway with a note explaining what it is. We're open to things that don't fit neatly.
<b>Can I withdraw a submission?</b>	Yes, at any time before publication. Email <a href="mailto:contribute@touch-the-earth.life">contribute@touch-the-earth.life</a> .
<b>Can I request removal after publication?</b>	Yes. We will remove work from the website within 30 days of a request. Published 'zine issues cannot be recalled, but we will note the removal in future issues if appropriate.

## Contact

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<b>Submissions</b>	<a href="mailto:contribute@touch-the-earth.life">contribute@touch-the-earth.life</a>
<b>Questions about the process</b>	<a href="mailto:contribute@touch-the-earth.life">contribute@touch-the-earth.life</a>
<b>Privacy or data queries</b>	<a href="mailto:privacy@touch-the-earth.life">privacy@touch-the-earth.life</a>
<b>General enquiries</b>	<a href="mailto:info@touch-the-earth.life">info@touch-the-earth.life</a>

*We read every submission ourselves. Please allow the full review period before following up.*