

# SPARC Writer's Guidelines

SPARC welcomes article submissions from a variety of sources. General web content as well as articles, features and special sections are written by SPARC staff and its Board of Directors. Freelance professional journalists with expertise in topics of interest to single parents are also welcome to submit articles.

Because SingleParent411 is designed by and created for single parents from all walks of life, it offers unique opportunities for volunteer contributors. SPARC is defined as a 501 c 3 organization dedicated to *equipping single parents with the necessary tools, supportive services and resources to enable them to create healthy home environments and nurture their children into happy, healthy and productive adults*. As such, we also welcome article submissions from you, our supporters and users.

At this time, SPARC does not offer any payment for article submissions. All articles are considered donations. Writers will receive credit for article submissions in the form of a byline and printed contact information.

We ask that you address topics of your own choosing in as personal and subjective a manner as possible. It is our goal that SingleParent411 articles will become recognized as a unique and prestigious forum for the most effective parenting practices and original perspectives.

Volunteer contributors generally submit articles in the following areas:

## **Faith Based:**

Inspiration Station: Faith Based leaders are invited to write articles of spiritual inspiration and encouragement to single parents. Articles found in this area are designed to *strengthen, not condemn* single parents.

Faith based articles are encouraged to provide scripture references and an invitation to salvation. Writers are also encouraged to provide contact information for the single parent ministry or faith based institution that they are affiliated with.

## **Toolkit for Successful Parenting:**

Articles in this section focus on a variety of single parenting issues including communication, single mothers raising sons, single fathers raising daughters, financial matters, seasonal advice, mentoring and variety of other topics. If there is a topic that you would like to see addressed, please either submit a request and we will address it or submit an article for yourself on that subject.

As SPARC focuses heavily on education, this section also covers book reviews. If there is a book that you've read or heard about that has helped you or that can help single

parent families along their journey, please send us your written review or recommend the title and we will review it ourselves.

If you are interested in submitting an article for SingleParent411, either online or in print, please note the following guidelines:

1. Please relate all articles to some aspect of the single parent experience
2. Please focus all articles on education, information and/or empowerment.
3. SingleParent411 does not accept articles that focus on blame, criticism or ridicule.
4. Articles should be approximately 500 – 1000 words in length. Word count recommendation is to be used as a guide. Please contact SPARC before submission if you would like to submit an article significantly longer.
5. Articles may be edited for content and/or length. Volunteer writers are invited to participate in the editorial process and will receive the final edit of their article with a specified time to discuss any changes with SPARC before the article runs.
6. All articles submitted remain active on SPARC's website for a minimum of thirty (30) days. After this, all articles are filed in the archive section where they can still be retrieved.
7. All volunteer contributors should strive to write in a clear, intelligible, and jargon-free style. Singleparent411 readers come from a variety of backgrounds and parenting traditions. We would like all of them to feel welcome at SingleParent411 and to regard our content as accessible and appealing as we develop an open and inclusive online community.
8. Article contributions are meant to edify, challenge, and inspire single parents thereby strengthening single parent families. To that end, we ask that all contributors generate material free of commercial intent. In other words, SingleParent411 does not promote specific items or products.
9. A SPARC Executive must approve all volunteer contributions before publication.
10. All articles are due on the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month before publication. Example, articles published in September are due August 15<sup>th</sup>.

Please send articles and inquiries to [newsletter@singleparent411.org](mailto:newsletter@singleparent411.org)