

***Maryland Life* Writers' Guidelines**

Thanks for your interest in writing for *Maryland Life*! Although there's no one-size-fits-all description of the types of stories we're looking for, keep in mind that:

- 1) We like quirky, off-beat, and unexpected pieces. Our readers are savvy and already know a lot about their state, so find something they *don't* know. Look for interesting people and places to cover.
- 2) Avoid "broad overview" ideas, such as "The 10 Best Crab Cakes" or "The 25 Greenest Golf Courses." Those things have been done to death. And avoid the "Just bumming around _____ for the day/evening/weekend" pieces. They're also too broad.
- 3) Think outside of Baltimore, Frederick, Annapolis, and Ocean City. Queries from lesser-traveled spots are more likely to grab our attention.
- 4) Seasonal pieces typically need to be photographed a year in advance, so keep that in mind when querying.
- 5) We work several months in advance, so extremely time-driven topics or events likely won't work for us.
- 6) PHOTOS MATTER, so keep your story's photographic potential in mind when pitching it to us. The greatest piece in the world won't fly if we can't get good photos or artwork to accompany it. If you're pitching a history-driven story, be sure decent—and accessible—archival photos exist.

Please send your queries to Holly Smith at holly@MarylandLife.com. When you do, also send a few clips of your published work (attachments or URLs are preferred). If at all possible, avoid sending materials via regular mail. And be patient—it may take awhile for us to respond to your query, but we *will* get back to you.