

Auditioning for *All God's Creatures*

Thank you for your interest in *All God's Creatures*! This annual, 365-day devotional highlights the ways that animals, insects, fish, and all of the amazing members of God's creation teach us about His ways.

How the audition process works:

Submit 3-5 devotions in the style of *All God's Creatures* (see below) to the email address listed below. If the editors think your writing style is a good fit for the devotional, you'll be invited to submit a mutually-agreed-upon number of devotions for the next year's volume. Authors who are successful in writing devotions are generally invited to submit for multiple years.

You may submit audition devotions at any time, but we generally do not know if we will have new openings or how many devotions we will need for a particular volume until we are in the planning phase, usually September through December of any given year.

Format and guidelines:

Devotion format:

- Title
- Opening scripture
- Devotional story (275-350 words—the lion's share of your devotion)
- Closing element: This can be another scripture, an inspirational quote, public domain poem or song, a prayer, or an action step (ideally something the reader can realistically do that day or next few days.) Please vary your closing elements so not all devotions are the same)
- Your name

In addition to reading recent copies of *All God's Creatures* for guidance on the kind of writing we're looking for, here are specific suggestions for writing successful *All God's Creatures* devotions:

- Each year, we ask our writers to cover a range of creatures – not just pets or a particular type of animal. Please use your devotions to showcase a variety of creatures and how you might write about them.
- Keep your devotions personal. The devotion is about *you* and *your* takeaway from your encounter with your animal subject[s]. You are sharing from your heart as if to a close friend. Let readers vicariously experience your takeaway or “aha” along with you.
- Avoid writing about sin or temptation, but if you have a particular struggle you feel comfortable sharing with readers, you may write about it in personal terms and how your animal encounter helped you.
- Keep your chosen animal(s) front and center and bring them through the entire devotion.
- We are celebrating God's creatures. Avoid using an animal as a negative example, except for humorous or more whimsical accounts.

- Your takeaway or last paragraph should stay personal. Avoid making generalizations or teaching lessons (“we Christians should,” etc.), and instead share what you learned or are learning, how your encounter changed your thoughts or actions. **Keep it in the first person in “I” statements:** “I realized,” “I want to be more like...” “I saw myself in...” Avoid teaching or preaching, except, perhaps, to yourself.
- Keep your tone positive, warmhearted, inspiring, and uplifting. Our objective with these devotions is that the reader will walk away from them with a renewed sense of God’s amazing care, loving-kindness, and grace.

Submission format:

- Please include all devotions, along with a short (100- to 150-word) bio, in a single document (MS Word preferred).
- Include in that document your name, phone number, email address, and mailing address; please also indicate if you have an agent.

Send your audition document to:

Morgan Beard
mbeard@guideposts.org