

THE NORTHERN SPIRE : UNDERGROUND ART ZINE

SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

Rev. Aug. 2024

Key Guidelines:

- 1) Content must be **Northern Michigan related** in some way. And preferably of a “**dark**” and/or “**underground**” topical nature.
- 2) All images must be monochrome, **black & white**. This is for printing.
- 3) Submissions may be **heavily edited** (excluding poetry). While we respect your art, this is a printed zine and we need to **maximize zine space for everyone’s** beneficial use.
- 4) We ask that you write your article “**professionally**” and “**confidently**” using phrasing that **promotes you and your art**. This is your “time to shine;” please don’t write stories showing self-pity or weakness unless that is the topic of your art.
- 5) Ask yourself, “**would I read this?**”
- 6) **Rejections**. Yes, we might reject your contribution. We’re sorry if it happens, but sometimes things don’t meet guidelines, are not topical enough, but often we just have too much content.

Announcements / News [Print Odds: Highest]

Content about upcoming or recent releases.

Minimum: 300 characters / 40 words

Maximum: 400 characters / 65 words

Images: 1 required

Interviews / Obituaries / Autobiographies / Biographies [Print Odds: *]

Self-reflective descriptions about a prominent local artist and/or their process.

Must include short biography at end.

Minimum: 500 characters / 100 words

Maximum: 1200 characters / 200 words

Images: 1 or 2 permitted (*highly suggested*)

“Sip & Song” [Print Odds: High]

Name one track, from one metal artist, and pair it thoughtfully with a drink.

No Images

Events / Concerts / Festivals / Public Activities / Classes [Print Odds: Highest]

Include: Date, Name, Location, Time, and Headliner(s) or Significant Notes.

Maximum: 300 characters / 40 words

Images: 1 poster permitted

Review / Reflection [Print Odds: Low]

There is too many good bands/albums/books to review the bad. Be insightful; critique and compare.

Minimum: 500 characters / 100 words

Maximum: 1200 characters / 200 words

Images: 1 permitted

Poetry [Print Odds: Average]

Must include a short biography at the end.

Minimum: 500 characters / 100 words

Maximum: 1200 characters / 200 words

Images: 1 permitted

Lyrics [Print Odds: Low]

Must include a short biography at the end and be insightful about writing process.

Maximum: xxx characters / xxx words

No Images

Beverage / Drink-Mix Recipe [Print Odds: Average]

Include the name, ingredients, and mixing instructions.

Maximum: 400 characters / 65 words

No Images

Humor / Joke / Comic Strip [Print Odds: Low to High]

One joke, funny story, or comic strip.

WARNING: racist, sexist, hateful, or other alarmingly offensive humor is not permitted.

We are a registered company within The United States and must comply with regulations.

Maximum: 500 characters / 100 words

Art [Print Odds: High]

Must include a credit "by line", but "title" is optional.

Topic must be thematically "dark" / "underground."

Alternatively consider being paired with an interview.

Photography [Print Odds: Average]

Must include a credit "by line", but "title" is optional.

Topic must be thematically "dark" / "underground."

Alternatively consider being paired with an interview.

Articles / Stories / Reflections / Opinions [Print Odds: Low]

Must be well written and provide valuable insight into the community. Usually written by valued members of the local metal community.

Minimum: 500 characters / 100 words

Maximum: 2000 characters / 400 words

Images: 1 or 2 permitted

Hate / Fan Mail [Print Odds: Lowest]

Must be in the form of a question, or statement, the we can reply to.

We select these based on the value they add to the zine and/or our community.

Average: 300 characters / 40 words

No Images

Sponsorship / Advertisement / Supporter [Print Odds: *]

Considered on a case-by-case basis.

Images: 1 required