

OTBT guidelines

Off the beaten Track

OTBT stories are between four and six pages long. How long they run, depends largely on the quality of photos and text.

The best OTBT stories have a sense of purpose: the reason for going on the trip can be as much a part of the story as the actual trip.

The story should detail a wilderness journey of several days duration (at least three) and the wilderness area travelled should be off the beaten track – somewhere new, somewhere different, somewhere strange.

Here are some basic guidelines:

- Stories should not exceed 2000 words.
- Story construction is crucial. You must grab the readers' attention immediately, so give thought to how to start the story and then to how it should follow from there.
- Write in the past tense – the trip's happened, possibly months ago by the time we publish.
- Avoid diary-type descriptions – i.e. Day one started out clear.... Day two we woke to find snow on the ground.... Day three... and so on. **Tell your story, don't simply relate events/happenings.**
- Don't forget the 'Wild File', which should include Map, Grade, Time, Huts, Start/Finish access etc.
- Picture references, captions and credits should be supplied at the end of the story, beneath the Wild File.

Payment: 18c/word, \$35/photo.