



***The Geysir Gazer Sput* Style Guide**

Thank you for your interest in contributing an article for *The Geysir Gazer Sput*. Here are some guidelines to writing style conventions and submissions for the *Sput*. We hope you will find this helpful. If you are challenged by any of these suggestions, please let us know at sput@gosa.org, and we will work with you! We would rather have the article submitted and help with the style and format than have these suggestions discourage you from contributing!

Types of articles welcomed for the Sput

- Trip Reports to geysir areas (anywhere, like Mickey Hot Springs, OR; or Crystal Springs, UT)
- Observations of a single geysir or a group of geysirs (again, anywhere!)
- Historical articles
- Photo essays (should be a cohesive group of photos on a single subject, for example, Aurora Over Old Faithful or Fountain Geysir's Seasons)
- Seeing unusual geysir activity or a rare eruption
- Articles about other related Yellowstone or other geysir-area activities, if geysirs are included; for example, volunteering in the geysir basins or leading a photo tour through Firehole Lake Drive
- Related Yellowstone news and information, such as earthquake activity, Old Faithful Visitor Center changes, conventions and panel discussions that might be of interest, etc.
- Book reviews (for books that might be of interest to geysir gazers)
- Do you have something else in mind? Let us know! We're always open to new ideas!

What we will not publish

We will not publish any articles or photographs depicting illegal activity in Yellowstone National Park, or other worldwide thermal areas. In Yellowstone National Park, this specifically includes articles featuring thermal features that can only be seen from off/trail off-boardwalk locations, or imagery taken from off-trail/off-boardwalk locations. The exception might be historical articles, or photographs or articles taken/written by National Park Service employees or volunteers working under the auspices of the NPS. Contact the *Sput* editor for further clarification.

Photographs

As well as photos to accompany articles, we are always looking for photos to include with the Geysir Summary and in other parts of the *Sput*, so if you have some photos to share, please send them along. Please make sure, though, that they are at least 5 inches by 7 inches and 1 mb in size or larger (we can accept up to 20mb in one email). Small photos do not print well. If you have a lot of photos to share,

send an email and ask for the Dropbox link. Also, scanned historical photos are pretty cool, too, especially if you have a story to go with them, like “My family saw Splendid Geyser erupt in 1994!”

General Grammar Style Reference: The *Sput*’s grammar follows most of the conventions in the recent editions of the *AP Stylebook* and *Schrunk & White*. A few exceptions:

- We use the Oxford Comma at the end of a series: *We saw steam from Riverside Geyser, Grotto Geyser, Grotto Fountain Geyser, and Rocket Geyser.*
- We use the two-letter abbreviation for states, or spell them out.
- Numbers are written as numerals rather than spelling numbers under 10. Example: *The prediction was based on a 6-hour interval, plus-or-minus 30 minutes.*

Distance and Height Measurements

Use the American measurement system (inches, feet, etc.), but if you are submitting an article about geysers in a country that uses the metric system, keep the measurements in metric.

Dates

Always use this convention: Month Day, Year. Abbreviate all months except April, May, June and July. *Fountain Geyser erupted at sunset on **Sept. 9, 2021**. Morning Geyser erupted on **May 26, 2013**.* If referring to a period of time, then spell out the months: *Between late September and early October 2010, there were 5 eruptions of Fan and Mortar geysers.*

Time Measurements and Time-Measurement Abbreviations

Please spell out units of time within the article: *The eruption lasted more than 24 **hours**, including the steam phase.*

For charts and tables, you can use these abbreviations: d = days; h = hours; m = minutes; s = seconds. Longer time units, such as “years” and “months,” are always spelled out.

Time is always in military time; the 24-hour clock. *Grand Geyser erupted at **2100** and was a 2-burst eruption.*

Geyser-Specific Abbreviations

A number of additional, geyser-observation-standard abbreviations may be used in the article and in charts and graphs. These abbreviations include the following:

I or **i** = interval; **IBE** = interval between eruptions; **D** or **d** = duration; **ie** = observed in eruption; and the tilde (~) may be used to note approximate time value. Also, **ns** = near start and **wc** = webcam observation.

Geyser Naming Conventions

Geyser names should be the same as what is used in T. Scott Bryan’s *The Geysers of Yellowstone*, Fifth edition (©2018) and/or Lee Whittlesey’s *Wonderland Nomenclature: A History of Place Names in Yellowstone National Park*. This means that official names are spelled out as in the book, but if the geyser’s name is *casual* use, it belongs in quotes; for example, “Cinnamon Spouter” (UNNG-BSB-5). Bryan’s book follows this convention, so if it is in quotes in Bryan 2018, then it should be in quotes in your article. Please also include the UNNG number with casual geyser names, if there is one. You only need to use the quotes on first reference to the geyser.

Also refer to the geyser's full name, even if gazers tend to shorten it. Example: Beehive's Indicator or (on subsequent references) Indicator but not Indy. Remember that many readers are new to geyser gazing or they may not visit the park often enough to know the colloquial references to certain geysers.

Past Tense and Present Tense

Please write geyser observation articles in **past tense**. Example: *Sawmill Geyser **was erupting** for nearly 4 hours before it **stopped** and Churn Geyser **had** two eruptions while Sawmill **was** quiet.* The reason for this is that it is what you saw at the time, not necessarily what the geyser is doing now.

Footnotes

Please do footnotes as endnotes. Unfortunately, the older software used to layout the *Sput* does not handle embedded footnotes well.

Citations

Generally follow whatever citation guide is your preference, whether it is the *Chicago Manual of Style* or some other reference. There are some examples at the end of this style guide if you need examples. Citations within articles should be in parenthesis and list author and date, Do not use a comma between the author and the date: *Many of these eruptions were noted earlier in 2008 during February and March (Bryan 2008).*

Formatting

You can send in *Sput* articles as:

Word documents

Google Docs

Pages (Apple Applications)

Email (generally not preferred, but if you don't have access to another program, we'll work with it)

Please **do not embed tables, charts, graphs or photographs** within the article. By embed, we mean placing the graphic or table in the same document as the article itself. **All graphic elements and charts or tables** should be submitted individually and separately. **Include captions** for those elements, and it can be helpful (but not necessary) to indicate within the article where the graphic element or photo should go in layout. For example, *Place Photo GrandGeyser.8.2.2021.Smith here*. We can't promise it will be exactly where you want it to be, but we will do our best to get it close.

And speaking of photos, **please name your photos with the geyser name, date taken and your name**. It can be in any order as long as all three elements are in the photo name. Phone photos, especially, have been challenging because they arrive as a string of numbers—please rename them if possible!

After you submit an article, the editor will send you a layout proof to be sure everything looks OK. You can make some minor changes at this point, but big changes, such as adding a new paragraph or deleting a graphic, become problematic. It's very helpful if your initial submission is, for the most part, finished.

We also have many geyser gazers who are willing, and actually enjoy, reading articles and offering helpful suggestions before publication. If you would like someone to read through your article, let us know and we'll reach out to someone for assistance!

If you have any questions or concerns, please get in touch with the editor at sput@gosa.org. We are happy to help!

Appendix: Some Reference Examples

If you have questions, contact the *Sput* editor, we can help!

Books

Author(s). Date. *Book title*. edition. Location: Publishing company.

Example:

Bryan, T. S. 2018. *The Geysers of Yellowstone*. 5th ed. Boulder: University Press of Colorado.

Electronic References.

Author(s)*. Year*. "Title." Access date (or last modified date). **Complete URL**. And it helps if it is a "live" link.

*In some cases author and year may not be available. In these cases simply include as much information as possible.

Examples:

Blog or online article

Yellowstone Volcano Observatory *Taking the Temperature of Norris Geyser Basin*.

<https://www.usgs.gov/volcanoes/yellowstone/taking-temperature-norris-geyser-basin>

GeyserTimes

Beverly, Carol. "Eruption 1205539." Jul. 2020. *Geysertimes.org*.

<<https://geysertimes.org/eruption.php?id=1205539>>.

Personal E-mail

Author. Year. "Subject line of posting." Personal E-mail (date).

Example:

Eide, Steve. 2010. "Norris." Personal E-mail (November 14, 2010).

Geyser Discussion Board

Author. Year. "Subject line of posting." E-mail to geyser discussion board list (date).

Example:

Keller, Mike. 2018. "Giant Geyser Report 9.8.2018." E-mail to geyser discussion board (Sept. 10, 2018).

Personal Discussion (casual conversation)

Person's name, "subject of discussion" personal conversation (date)

Example:

Paperiello, Rocco "Length of Sawmill Eruptions" personal conversation (June 3, 2020)