



★ Contents ★

General Information | Zine Overview | Schedule
The Charity | Applications | The Mods | FAQ

★ Important Links ★

[Twitter](#) | [Retrospring](#) | [Carrd](#)

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GENERAL INFO

Guiding Stars is a for-charity, digital SFW zine themed around the Blue Lions from *Fire Emblem: Three Houses*. This zine aims to explore all members of the Blue Lions house—their friendships, bonds, and individual stories.



ZINE OVERVIEW

This zine is SFW **only**, meaning artwork and fiction will not contain any explicit content. Our interest check will help us decide on the numbers of writers and artists that will be featured within our zine, so check back once the interest check is closed for more info!

Specs:

- ★ Digital Zine
- ★ Size A5 (5.8 x 8.3 inches)
- ★ # of writers: 13
- ★ # of page/comic artists: 14
- ★ # of spot/merch artists: 8
- ★ # of alternative creators: 2



SCHEDULE

this schedule is subject to change.

Interest Check open	May 9th
Interest Check closed	June 5th
Interest Check results	June 12th
Contributor Apps open	June 19th
Contributor Apps closed	July 19th
Results Sent	August 2nd
Pitching period	August 9th — 19th
Check in 1	September 22nd
Check in 2	October 22nd
Check in 3	November 22nd
Final submissions	December 22nd
Preorders open	January 5th
Preorders close	February 29th
Zine release	Spring 2024
Leftover Sales	July 20th — August 17th
Final donation & Project completed	September 16th



THE CHARITY

Our charity is Horizons for Youth, a children's charity based on helping at-risk and homeless teens get off the streets and find community. [Learn more here.](#)

APPLICATION GUIDELINES

Important note: Please double-check that you have provided all requested samples. If you are using Google Drive, make sure you have link sharing on. If we cannot access your work or your samples are incomplete, **we will have to disqualify your application.**

Page/Comic Artists

We will be grading artist applications based on grasp of anatomy, use of color, piece composition, and other artistic fundamentals.

- ◆ Please provide links to 3 SFW samples of your best work, ideally fully coloured with backgrounds, reflecting the standard of work you would like to contribute to this zine.
- ◆ Please provide a link to your portfolio with a minimum of 5 pieces; this can be a Google Drive link, Twitter Moment, Instagram/Tumblr account, your own website, etc; as long as we have access to view what's inside!
- ◆ If you plan to create a piece with traditional mediums for the zine, please submit pieces that showcase your traditional artwork.

- ◆ Works featuring Fire Emblem 3 Houses characters and settings are preferred, although not required.
- ◆ Please **do not** submit NSFW-only portfolios. If you are submitting a portfolio with NSFW pieces in it, you will be required to provide a warning in the application so that the mod team will know in advance.

Spot Artists

- ◆ Spot artists will have the same guidelines as page artists above, except for your three SFW samples, only **one** needs to have a background.

Writers

We will be grading writer applications based on story flow, characterisation, spelling, grammar, and punctuation.

- ◆ Please provide links to three SFW examples of your best works as a **google doc, word doc, pdf, or a link** (to a work in Ao3 or any other website), reflecting the standard of work you would like to contribute to this zine. We ask that each are between 500 — 2,500 words for prose (about 100 words of ‘wiggle room’ are allowed).
- ◆ For other writing types, such as news articles, travelogues, diary entries, etc, we ask that pieces be between 100 — 1,500 words.
- ◆ At least one sample must be a **complete work**. Your second and third samples can be either excerpts or other complete works.

◆ We ask you include these specifics at the top of each sample: **Rating, Word Count, TW's, Fandom, Ships or characters, Sample type, context (if applicable).**

◆ Works featuring Fire Emblem 3 Houses characters and settings are preferred but not required.

◆ A link to your portfolio with a minimum of 5 pieces; this can be an AO3/Fanfiction.net account, Google Drive link, your own website, etc; as long as we have access to view what's inside! Please **do not** submit NSFW-only portfolios.

Merch Artists

We will be grading merch artist applications based on suitability of your designs to the merch in question, grasp of anatomy where applicable, composition, and use of colour.

◆ Please provide links to 3 SFW examples of your best work, reflecting the merch style you would like to contribute. If you have images of produced merch, feel free to show us, but initial designs are also welcome and will not affect your chances of being accepted.

◆ Showing examples of merch designs that you would like to make for this zine is recommended. E.g. If you would like to make a digital wallpaper for the zine, include digital wallpaper designs in your samples.

◆ Works featuring Fire Emblem 3 Houses characters and settings are preferred, although not required.

- ◆ A link to your portfolio; this can be a Google Drive link, Twitter Moment, Instagram/Tumblr account, your own website, etc; as long as we have access to view what's inside!
- ◆ Please **do not** submit NSFW-only portfolios. If you are submitting a portfolio with NSFW pieces in it, you will be required to provide a warning in the application so that the mod team will know in advance.

Alternative Creators

We will be grading alternative creator applications based on the role they applied for.

- ◆ Please provide a link to 1-3 SFW examples of your best work, reflecting the work you would like to contribute.
- ◆ Works featuring Fire Emblem 3 Houses characters and settings are preferred, although not required.
- ◆ A link to your portfolio; this can be a Google Drive link, Twitter Moment, Instagram/Tumblr account, your own website, etc; as long as we have access to view what's inside!
- ◆ Please **do not** submit NSFW-only portfolios. If you are submitting a portfolio with NSFW pieces in it, you will be required to provide a warning in the application so that the mod team will know in advance.



CONTRIBUTORS

We ask our contributors to adhere to our schedule and work to the best of their ability! Of course, we understand that life happens, in which case we will be more than happy to grant you extensions should you ask in advance.

General Expectations

- ◆ Be polite, kind, and considerate to your fellow contributors and the mods; no rude or inappropriate behavior will be allowed and may result in your ejection from the project.
- ◆ Have a Discord account, or be willing to make one for all major communication.
- ◆ Keep us in the loop: turn in check-ins on time, or ask for extensions. If you ghost the project, we will have to forfeit your position in the zine.
- ◆ *Usage:* Contributors retain the rights to their pieces but we ask that you don't share or post full iterations of pieces until 2 weeks after the zine has been distributed. Sharing of previews is allowed only during our pre-order period. More information about previews will be made before the pre-order period begins.
- ◆ *Compensation:* Contributors will be compensated with a digital pdf of the zine plus any digital merchandise offered.

Page/Comic Artists

- ◆ Prepare 2-3 pitches of what you would like to portray in the zine. The more detail the better as this will help us visualize what you have in mind!
- ◆ Create one full A5 page artwork that adheres to your accepted prompt.

◆ Mod Seal will provide feedback prior to the final submissions, but you are more than welcome to ask for feedback at any part of the process!

Spot Artists

◆ Create one to two spot pieces that adheres to the fic you are assigned after the pitch process.

◆ Mod Seal will provide feedback prior to the final submissions, but you are more than welcome to ask for feedback at any part of the process!

Writers

◆ Two to three pitches of what you would like to portray in the zine. The more detail the better!

◆ Contribute one piece with a maximum 2.5k word count that adheres to your accepted prompt.

◆ Mod Cyan will provide a full beta-read prior to the final submissions, but you are more than welcome to ask for feedback during any part of the process!

Merch Artists

◆ At least 2-3 pitches of what you would like to portray as merch, as well as the types of merch you are interested in. The more detail the better!

◆ Contribute your assigned pieces of merchandise that adhere to your accepted prompts/merch types.

◆ Mod Seal will provide feedback prior to the final submissions, but you are more than welcome to ask for feedback at any part of the process!

Alternative Creators

◆ Provide two to three pitches of what you would like to create for the zine. The more detail the better!

◆ Contribute one work that adheres to your accepted prompt.

◆ The Mod Team will provide feedback prior to the final submissions, but you are more than welcome to ask for feedback at any part of the process!



MOD TEAM



VForce: Head & Social Media

She/Her, 20+

Hi guys! I'm V, and I love all my Blue Lions equally (*glances at Felix*).

[Carro](#)



Seal: Graphics & Art

She/He, 30+

Hey everyone, I'm Seal! While most of my life is dedicated to Sylvain, I love all of the Blue Lions house members so much. I think they'd do the absolute worst in a haunted house.

[Twitter](#)



Noirfos: Finance

Any pronouns, 20+

Hello, I'm Noir and I'll be handling the finances!
FEH was my gateway to gacha hell.

[Linktree](#)



Ash: Organization

He/Him, 18+

Hello! I'm Ash and I'm happy to be here and ~~endlessly obsess about~~
enjoy the Blue Lions along with everyone else!

[Twitter](#)



Cyan: Writing

They/Them, 25+

Hi, I'm Cyan! Long-time Fire Emblem fan and perpetual student of Garreg Mach.
The Blue Lions deserve to spend less time fighting and more time drinking tea.

Happy to be here!

[Twitter](#)



Mari: Formatting

She/Her, 20+

Hi I'm Mari!! I'm a giant Fire Emblem fan,
I love exploiting their stats systems!

[Tumblr](#)



F.A.Q.

What is the theme of this zine?

This zine is themed around the Blue Lions house from
Fire Emblem: Three Houses!

Is this zine for-profit or for-charity?

This will be a for-charity zine. Our charity is Horizons for Youth!

Is this zine digital or physical?

This will be a digital only zine that will include some physical merch.

Will NSFW content be allowed?

No, this will be a SFW zine.

How many contributors will you accept?

We'll be accepting a total of 35 contributors!

We'll be looking for:

◆ 13 Page/Comic Artists

◆ 13 Writers

◆ 7 Spot/Merch Artists

◆ 2 Alternative Creators

Can I apply to more than one role?

Yes, but you may only be accepted to one.

Is shipping content allowed?

The focus of the content of the zine will remain general/platonic,
but background ships are allowed.

Will the zine include AUs?

Yes, you can pitch any AU of your preference!

Are past Blue Lions/other Faerghus characters allowed?

Characters such as Lambert, Rodrigue, Catherine, and other
Blue Lions/Faerghus characters will be allowed as background characters.

Are characters from other houses/regions allowed?

Yes, but only as background characters.

May I share works in-progress I've done for this zine?

Work in-progress may be shared online with the mod team's permission,

but nothing more than 40% finished. Sharing progress within the zine's server is perfectly fine and encouraged!

Will I be able to post/sell my finished piece?

All contributors will be allowed to post and sell their finished pieces 1 week after the zine has been released. They may also use finished pieces in their portfolios at any time, as long as the link remains private until after the zine has been released.

My question isn't here, what should I do?

You can send your questions to our [Twitter](#) or [retrospring](#)! You can also check out our [Q&A thread](#) on Twitter for previously answered questions!



Thank you for your interest!