Beyond the Horizon – Editorial Policy

Beyond the Horizon is the official monthly astronomy and space science newsletter of **Skygaze India**, aimed at bridging scientific curiosity with creativity. The publication provides a platform for students, educators, and enthusiasts worldwide to express their ideas, research, and experiences related to space, astronomy, astrophysics, and science communication.

Our mission is to promote **scientific literacy, inclusivity, and youth-led discovery** by featuring authentic and inspiring contributions from around the world.

Purpose of this Policy

This Editorial Policy outlines the principles, standards, and procedures that guide all editorial, publishing, and content-related decisions for *Beyond the Horizon*.

It ensures transparency, accuracy, fairness, and professionalism in every issue published under the Skygaze India banner.

Scope

This policy applies to all:

- Members of the *Beyond the Horizon* Editorial Board and Review Committee.
- Contributors, photographers, designers, and guest authors.
- Affiliated institutions and partner organizations contributing to the magazine.

It governs all types of content including articles, reports, interviews, artwork, astrophotography, poems, and news updates.

Editorial Principles

We are guided by the following principles:

1. **Integrity:** Every piece of content must reflect honesty, scientific accuracy, and authenticity.
2. **Inclusivity:** We value diverse voices, especially from underrepresented regions and communities.
3. **Creativity:** We encourage scientific writing that blends curiosity with storytelling.
4. **Transparency:** The publication process is open, ethical, and fair to all contributors.
5. **Accountability:** The editorial board is collectively responsible for maintaining publication quality.

Submission Policy

- *Beyond the Horizon* welcomes submissions from **students, educators, astronomy clubs, and independent writers** across the globe.
- All submissions must be **original**, and not under review elsewhere.
- Acceptable content categories includes, but not limited to:
    - Astronomy and Astrophysics Articles
    - Scientific Opinion Pieces
    - Research Summaries
    - Space Art, Poems, and Astrophotography
- Articles should range between **500–1,000 words**, written in clear, accessible English (British or American).
- **Plagiarism**, including uncredited AI-generated or copied content, will result in immediate rejection.
- All images must be **original or open-source** with proper credits mentioned.
- Submissions are accepted via the **official Skygaze India Submission Form** or **editorial email**.

For detailed submission guidelines **(Click here)**

Review and Selection Process

All articles undergo a **two-stage review** process:

1. **Editorial Review:**
    - Conducted by Associate Editors for language, clarity, coherence, and adherence to theme.
    - Articles may be sent back for revision if improvement is needed.
2. **Scientific Review:**
    - Conducted by members of the Content Review Committee or mentors to ensure factual correctness.
    - References and data are cross-checked with credible sources.

Final approval is granted by the **Chief Editor**, and the decision is communicated to the contributor via email.

Authorship and Credit Policy

- The **primary author's name** will appear prominently under each article.
- Co-authors, photographers, and mentors will be credited appropriately.
- Mentors and reviewers may be acknowledged in a "Special Thanks" section.
- Contributors retain **non-exclusive rights** to their content but grant Skygaze India permission to publish it digitally or in print.

Ethical Standards and Integrity

- All contributors must ensure their work is **original**, **factually accurate**, and **respectful** in tone.
- Fabrication, plagiarism, or data manipulation will not be tolerated.
- Opinions should be supported by evidence or recognized scientific perspectives.
- Editors and reviewers must maintain **confidentiality** and avoid conflicts of interest.

Diversity and Inclusion Policy

Beyond the Horizon is committed to creating a diverse and global space science community.

We ensure:

- Equal opportunity regardless of gender, nationality, or background.
- Representation of voices from developing and underrepresented regions.
- Avoidance of any language that could be discriminatory or exclusionary.

Visual and Media Policy

- All visual content must be high-quality and properly attributed.
- Use of images from NASA, ESA, or similar open-access scientific sources is permitted with citation.

- Digital artwork and photographs must have **clear consent from creators** before publication.

- No copyrighted or AI-generated visuals are allowed without explicit permission.

Publication Schedule

Timeline	***Activity***
1st–7th of every month	*Publication of the current issue.*
By 10th of each month	*Finalization of the theme for the upcoming issue and announcement of the call for submissions.*
10th–25th of the month	*Open window for submissions.*
25th–End of the month	*Review and editorial process for content.*
End of the month	*Design and layout finalization for the next issue.*

Note: *Submission deadlines may be* ***extended under special circumstances***

Correction and Retraction Policy

- Minor errors (spelling, date, caption) will be corrected silently online.

- Major factual errors will result in a **formal correction note** in the next issue.

- In case of proven plagiarism or false information, an article will be **retracted** and marked accordingly.

Privacy and Data Protection

- Contributor information is stored securely and used only for editorial communication.

- Skygaze India does **not share personal data** with external entities without consent.

- Contributors may request removal of their bio or photo at any time by contacting the editorial team.

Certificates and Recognition

- All contributors receive a **certificate of contribution** from Skygaze India.

- Editors and reviewers are recognized for their service in annual acknowledgments.

Communication and Dispute Resolution

- Any disputes related to authorship, editing, or publication must be addressed directly to the **Chief Editor** via email.

- The Editorial Board will review and respond within **10 working days**.

- All communications should remain professional and respectful.

Policy Review and Updates

This policy is reviewed annually by the Editorial Board.

Revisions are approved by the **Chief Editor** and **Founder of Skygaze India** to ensure continued alignment with evolving standards of academic and creative publishing.

For submissions, queries, or policy clarification, contact us at support@skygazeindia.com