

## Gretchen Picklesimer Kinney

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Dear *For the Strength of Youth* Team,

When I was in the youth program growing up, I was so grateful for the *New Era*. I loved that it addressed topics and questions that were pertinent in my life and told stories from youth all around the world.

I know firsthand how reading faith-filled stories from other youth can strengthen faith and testimonies. When I was 13, I prayed to know whether the Book of Mormon was true, and I received the answer, “You already know.” Quite honestly, this answer disappointed me a bit. Why didn’t Heavenly Father just give me a yes? About a month later, I was reading in the *New Era* and I came across an article about a girl who had the same questions that I did about the Book of Mormon. She prayed to know whether the Book of Mormon was true, and she received the exact same answer that I did! Reading her story, I felt the spirit testify to me that the Book of Mormon was the word of God. I loved her story so much that I cut out her article and pinned it to my bulletin board (as far as I know, it’s still there).

I am currently an English major and editing minor at BYU, and I feel that my writing and editing experience would allow me to be a valuable asset to the *For the Strength of Youth* team. As an editor for the BYU journal *Criterion*, I have learned how to edit papers for organization and clarity, helping writers present their best work. As a member of the *For the Strength of Youth* team, I would be eager to interact with youth from all around the world and help them share their testimonies and experiences with a global audience. I am continually amazed at the faith and dedication of our youth, and it would be an honor to help them share their stories with the world. I look forward to meeting with you, and I hope that we will have the opportunity to work together.

Thank you for your consideration,  
Gretchen Picklesimer Kinney