



## Elder Wisdom Circle™ Membership Application

**Adobe Reader 9 or later is required to complete this form.**

To install the latest version of Adobe Reader, click the below icon and then follow the on-screen instructions to download. Adobe Reader is free.



**Complete and save the form, and then e-mail it as an attachment to:**

[Membership@ElderWisdomCircle.org](mailto:Membership@ElderWisdomCircle.org)

After reading the instructions, if you have questions or require assistance with the application process, e-mail:

[Membership@ElderWisdomCircle.org](mailto:Membership@ElderWisdomCircle.org)

### History and Mission of the Elder Wisdom Circle

Our mission is to:

- Provide an opportunity for all older adults 55+ to utilize their life experience and wisdom to help others.
- Offer thoughtful and helpful advice to younger generations.
- Elevate the value and worth of our senior community.

Founded in 2001, the Elder Wisdom Circle (EWC) is one of the largest providers of personal advice, with hundreds of thousands of readers.

The EWC has been featured on ABC, CBS, BBC, FOX, and NPR, and in Glamour, The Los Angeles Times, Ladies Home Journal, Real Simple, Time, and USA Today.

For more information, go to [www.ElderWisdomCircle.org](http://www.ElderWisdomCircle.org)

## Thank you for your interest in becoming a member of the Elder Wisdom Circle!

We appreciate your interest and welcome both individual and group applications.

### Requirements for acceptance

- Elders must be at least 55 years old, including each member of an Elder Group. (Facilitators may be of any age.)
- Elder Groups must have an established meeting place and a facilitator.
- Elders agree to log into the EWC platform regularly (two or more times per week), respond to a minimum of ten letters within the 45 days immediately following acceptance, and average six letters a month thereafter. While each individual and group is different, generally this translates into a commitment of approximately 1–2 hours per week.
- Elders agree to respect diversity, treat advice seekers and other EWC members with respect, be receptive to input from EWC Administration and adhere to all EWC policies.

### IMPORTANT Before you proceed...

- Make sure you have read our [\[FAQs\]](#) for more detailed information about what it means to be an Elder.
- Visit our [\[Read Advice\]](#) page and browse through recent letters and Elder responses to get a sense of who we are, as well as the tone and style of the letters that we typically send to our advice seekers.
- Save/download this file to your computer **BEFORE** completing the form. Once saved: Open the file, complete the form, save it again, and then attach the completed application to an email and send it to [Membership@ElderWisdomCircle.org](mailto:Membership@ElderWisdomCircle.org). If you are sending an application for a group, include your name as well as the first names and ages of each member.

# Elder Wisdom Circle Elder Application

## PART I

1. Full name(s) *First, Middle Initial, Last*

2. Email address

3. City and State where you reside.

4. Phone number(s) that you wish us to use for you. Select the check box next to the preferred number.

Cell  Home  Work

5. Date of Birth

6. Where did you hear about us?

7. Tell us about yourself in a BRIEF biography including marital status, family, education/professional background, special skill sets, life experiences, and avocations or interests.

8. EWC provides advice to advice seekers from all over the globe. We provide advice to people of all races and cultures and value advice providers from all races and cultures.

A. List any languages other than English that you speak and/or understand?

B. List any cultures other than North American in which you are knowledgeable? What are they? How did you come to learn them?

C. We are also seeking advice providers who either lived in or have a deep cultural connection to other countries, such as India, Pakistan, Southeast Asian, Africa, and other communities including the LGBTQ community, the African American community, and the Hispanic community. What culture(s) do you identify with?

9. Based upon your experience, what do you believe constitutes good advice? Why?

10. How would you handle giving advice to someone whose values, culture, country, or beliefs are different from your own?

11. What types of problems draw your greatest interest and desire to help someone?

12. Which letter/response on our [[Read Advice](#)] page did you find most inspiring? Why? List the letter number as well as the topic.

13. Do you believe the problems we face today, as individuals and as a society, are any lesser or greater than in past generations? Briefly explain.

14. Are you able to log into the EWC platform two or more times per week, respond to a minimum of ten letters within the 45 days immediately following acceptance, and average at least six letters a month thereafter?

15. Do you possess the minimum required computer skills as outlined in the [[FAQs](#)]?

NOTE: We work on a cooperative basis in which Elders are encouraged to lend their talents to the administrative operation of the organization. After you have completed a probationary period, you will be asked to become a member of a committee. We will contact you to let you know where we have a need and to learn where you have skills and interest in participating.

## PART II

In this phase of the application, you will respond to two (2) real letters we have received and answered at the EWC. You will choose these letters from a queue on our website, much the same way our working Elders do.

There are no limitations or restrictions on the length of an Elder's response to any advice request. **However, it is important that you carefully review your response. The response should be empathetic, non-judgmental, thoughtful, thorough, and practical.**

We will evaluate your responses to the two sample questions based on these criteria, as well as on your writing competency, including accurate spelling, punctuation, grammar, sentence structure, composition, and formatting.

As a reminder, due to our non-profit charter, we offer NO specific medical, veterinary, legal, tax, or financial advice. Further, Elders are not permitted to reveal professional backgrounds to validate their opinions, to avoid them being interpreted as professional advice.

Select two letters of your choice from the online [\[Sample Queue\]](#), and then enter your responses below.

Please proofread before submitting!

### Letter #1:

Letter to which you are responding (1–26):

**Letter #2:**

Letter to which you are responding (1–26):

**\*\*\*\*\* THE APPLICATION PROCESS IS NOW COMPLETE \*\*\*\*\***

We appreciate your willingness to volunteer to assist us in providing suggestions to anyone who requests advice. Every Advice Seeker receives a response from us, and we strive for excellence in our responses. We are committed to being of service to people from all over the world.

Thank you for your application, time, and interest. Your application will be submitted to the Membership Committee, and we will be in touch with you within two (2) weeks.

**Once you have saved the form, email it as an attachment to [Membership@ElderWisdomCircle.org](mailto:Membership@ElderWisdomCircle.org)**

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