



SOCIETY FOR TECHNICAL COMMUNICATION

# STC – What’s In It For You?

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# Organization

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- Society for Technical Communication (STC)
- International organization with 14,000+ members worldwide
- Divided into two types of communities:
  - Geographic communities are *chapters*
  - Communities of interest are *special interest groups (SIGs)*
- Not for profit 501(c)(3)

# Our Mission

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- STC advances the theory and practice of technical communication across all user abilities and media.

# STC Members Include

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- Academics
- Content Developers
- Documentation Specialists
- Information Architects
- Instructional Designers
- Interface Designers
- Technical Editors
- Technical Illustrators
- Technical Writers
- Translators
- Usability and Human Factors Professionals
- Visual Designers
- Web Designers and Developers

# Membership Benefits – Entry Level

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- Continuing education
- Networking with peers
- Finding that job
- Exploring your interests
- Competing for recognition

# Membership Benefits – Experienced

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- Publishing opportunities
- Presenting at a conference or seminar
- Learning new skills
- Developing management skills
- Finding employees or subcontractors

# Membership Benefits – Expert

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- Consulting
- Mentoring
- Getting recognition
- Judging competitions
- Guiding the society

# SIGs

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- Academic
- AccessAbility
- Canadian Issues
- Consulting and Independent Contracting
- Emerging Technologies
- Environmental, Safety, and Health
- Illustrators and Visual Designers

# SIGs (continued)

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- Information Design and Architecture
- Instructional Design & Learning
- International Technical Communications
- Lone Writer
- Management
- Marketing Communication
- Online

# SIGs (continued)

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- Policies and Procedures
- Quality and Process Improvement
- Scientific Communication
- Single Sourcing
- STC Europe
- Technical Editing
- Usability & User Experience

# STC Resources

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- Publications
  - *Technicalities* magazine
  - *Technical Communications* journal
- Website
  - [www.stc.org](http://www.stc.org)
  - STC membership directory
  - Search engine for past presentations and articles
- Conferences

# Chapter and SIG Resources

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- Examples of chapter websites
  - Heartland [www.stc-heartland.org](http://www.stc-heartland.org)
  - Rocky Mountain [www.stcrmc.org](http://www.stcrmc.org)
  - Puget Sound [www.stc-psc.org](http://www.stc-psc.org)
  - Lone Star [www.stc-dfw.org](http://www.stc-dfw.org)
- Examples of SIG websites
  - IDL [www.stcidlsig.org/cms](http://www.stcidlsig.org/cms)
  - CIC [www.stcsig.org/cic/index.html](http://www.stcsig.org/cic/index.html)
  - AccessAbility [www.stcsig.org/sn/index.shtml](http://www.stcsig.org/sn/index.shtml)
- Newsletters

# Telephone Seminars

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- January-March 2007
  - “The Xfactor – From HTML to XHTML”
  - “ANSI Z535.6 – A New Standard for Safety Information in Product-Accompanying Literature”
  - “Creating Indexes on Web Sites and Intranets”
  - “Working in Global Teams”
  - “Everything You Always Wanted to Know About Content Management, But Were Afraid to Ask”
  - “The New Valuable”
- <http://www.stc.org/edu/seminars01.asp>

# STC Conferences

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- 55<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference
  - Philadelphia June 1-4 2008
  - <http://www.stc.org/55thConf/index.asp>
- Regional conferences

# STC Membership

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- Membership is open to anyone employed in, interested in, or concerned with the profession of technical writing, publishing, or associated disciplines.

# Membership Types

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- Four types of membership:
  - Classic
  - Limited
  - E-Membership
  - Student Membership
- Details and online application at <https://www.stc.org/membership/join01.asp>

# Classic Membership

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- Includes printed copies of *Intercom* and *Technical Communication* and membership in
  - 1 chapter and 1 SIG
  - **OR** 2 chapters
  - **OR** 2 SIGs
- \$150 dues + \$15 enrollment fee

# E-Membership

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- Includes membership in
  - 1 chapter and 1 SIG
  - **OR** 2 chapters
  - **OR** 2 SIGs
- \$140 + \$15 Enrollment Fee

# Limited Membership

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- Includes printed copies of *Intercom* and *Technical Communication*
- No chapter or SIG memberships
- \$130 + \$15 enrollment fee

# Student Membership

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- Includes membership in
  - 2 chapters
    - May select 1 professional chapter and 1 student chapter
  - Unlimited SIGs
- \$55
  - Does not vote in STC elections
  - Must meet eligibility requirements

# Student Membership Eligibility

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- To be eligible for student membership, an applicant must be
  - Enrolled in an accredited university, college, community college, or technical school
  - Taking at least two courses or their equivalent each term
  - Preparing for a career in technical communication