



Volunteer Journalist Application

Thank you for your interest in joining The Soundwave Foundation as a Volunteer Journalist! We are a nonprofit organization dedicated to championing all forms of rock music by amplifying emerging artists and preserving rock history through accessible, innovative content. Our work is driven by core values of accessibility, innovation, community, integrity, and passion for music.

Volunteer Journalists play a crucial role in our Content and Journalism department, producing original, fact-checked articles, reviews, interviews, and other media that align with our mission. This is an unpaid volunteer position, with potential for paid assignments or stipends based on commitment and budget availability. Volunteers receive recognition for their work, priority event access, and opportunities to build professional networks in the music community.

Key Expectations for Volunteer Journalists:

- **Objectivity and Fact-Driven Reporting:** We are not an opinion-based outlet and keep personal opinions to a minimum. Reports must be fact-driven, objective, and balanced. We are not here to roast artists or write puff pieces—focus on depth, clarity, and insightful analysis.
- **Report Length and Quality:** Standard reports are generally 6 to 9 paragraphs long. Short reports or updates can be 4-6 paragraphs. Aim for content that provides meaningful depth without unnecessary filler.
- **Use of AI:** AI is acceptable as a tool for research, drafting reports, generating headlines, or compiling source lists. However, we do not publish "AI slop"—all final content must be original, human-refined, and free of generic AI phrasing. Always conduct your own independent research, fact-checking, and source tracing. Proofread every report thoroughly before submission.
- **Personal Development:** Develop your unique style, phrasing, and journalist profile. Anything you create for The Soundwave Foundation can be used in your personal portfolio.
- **Commitment:** Deliver 1-2 reports per week. Be active in communication channels, attend virtual meetings and group chats, and collaborate across departments.

- **General Policies:** Adhere to our Code of Conduct, including professionalism, respect for intellectual property, and avoidance of conflicts of interest. All volunteers must sign a confidentiality agreement.

To apply, please complete the form below. Provide detailed responses to demonstrate your fit for the role. Applications are reviewed on a rolling basis by our Executive Director and Content team. If selected, you'll receive onboarding materials, including access to our time-tracking tools and collaboration platforms.

Application Form

Personal Information

- Full Name: _____
 - Date Of Birth: / / (Note: All Volunteers must be 18 years of age.)
 - Email Address: _____
 - Phone Number (optional): _____
 - Location (City, State/Country): _____
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Experience and Qualifications

Briefly describe your background in journalism, writing, or music-related fields (e.g., previous publications, blogs, or relevant education). Limit to 200 words.

How familiar are you with indie and alternative rock music? Share 2-3 artists or bands you're passionate about and why they align with our mission to amplify emerging talent and preserve rock history.

Availability and Commitment

Confirm your ability to commit to 1-2 reports per week, active communication, and attending meetings/group chats (yes/no). If yes, describe your weekly availability (e.g., hours per week, preferred time zones).

Are you open to cross-departmental collaboration, such as supporting preservation projects or education events? Why or why not?

Additional Questions

Why do you want to volunteer with The Soundwave Foundation? How does our vision of music

as an essential cultural thread resonate with you?

Are you willing to report on artist that may not be your favorite or that you may not like?

(Yes or No).

What is your favorite sub genre of rock music?

Do you have any questions about the role, our organization, or the application process?

Agreement

By submitting this application, I acknowledge that I have read and agree to abide by The Soundwave Foundation's Employee Handbook, including policies on equal opportunity, code of conduct, confidentiality, and volunteer expectations. I understand this is a volunteer position and consent to the use of my submitted materials for evaluation purposes.

Signature: _____

Date: _____