



Volunteering at Push the Boat Out 2026

About the Festival

The next Push the Boat Poetry Festival will take place 12-15 November 2026, and with over 75 shows and workshops, this year promises to be our most exciting yet. An event unlike any other, Push The Boat Out (PTBO) remains Scotland's newest poetry and multi arts festival, with a growing year round programme and a strong community ethos.

Inspired by the vibrancy and range of contemporary poetry, hip-hop, and spoken word from Scotland, the UK, and further afield, PTBO aims to give poetry a new platform, creating an environment where all variations of this vital art form are encouraged to grow, evolve and even collide. We want to explore fresh, inventive ways to bring poetry and audiences together by challenging perceptions of what poetry is and how it can be enjoyed, and opening up poetry in all its wonderful guises to new and diverse audiences.

To make it all happen we need a vibrant team of volunteers to support the festival! They will be on site during the festival, and have a wide range of duties across the shift from setting up the performance spaces, to managing the audience to greeting our fantastic acts. All volunteers will receive training prior to volunteering and work alongside the PTBO staff team. As well as gaining valuable experience in working in a world class arts venue and festival environment, there will be opportunities to see some of the amazing programme at Push the Boat Out 2026. You can view the festival nights and pre-festival events on sale now at www.pushtheboatout.org, with the full programme announced on 1 October.

Why volunteer at Push The Boat Out

- Be an ambassador for the presentation of internationally acclaimed poetry performances, workshops, discussions and more
- Access our wide range of shows and workshops
- Interact with a wide range of performers, writers and audience members
- Gain experience working in a festival environment and gain some insight on the different departments that work together to make festivals happen
- And of course, as with all arts festivals it is a great place to meet like minded people and make a few new friends!

Main Tasks and Responsibilities

Alongside our front of house team, the volunteers at Push The Boat Out are responsible for:

- Welcoming all visitors to Push the Boat Out events and assisting with enquiries
- Audience management, including directing people in our venues, helping organise queues and seating the audience
- Greeting our performers and guest speakers, and directing them to the venues and green room
- Setting up the spaces; this might include moving chairs and tables around, tidying up the auditorium after a show or replenishing the refreshments in the green room
- Attending the shows and workshops and communicating with the production team if an audience member or performer needs assistance
- Invigilating exhibitions
- Assisting with our book signing events, including queue management and providing refreshments and assistance to the authors

Essential Skills

- Friendly, approachable and comfortable talking to the public
- Reliable and punctual, with good attention to detail
- Enthusiastic about live performance and the festival atmosphere
- Good level of spoken English
- Willingness to work as part of a team

Dates and Location

The festival runs from 12-15 November 2026 in Pleasance. The days will be split into 4 hour shifts; volunteers can sign up to as many as they like but must complete a minimum of 2 shifts to receive a free pass to the festival. The pass will include all shows and some workshops depending on availability.

Training

All Volunteers must attend a general induction session at the Pleasance on Wednesday 11 November, 6pm.

Other information

We will provide you with a lanyard or T-shirt for easy identification by visitors. Travel expenses to and from the venue can be claimed. Volunteers must be 18 or over.

How to apply

[Please complete this form in order to apply](#), and our [equalities form](#). We will

then be in touch with you to arrange a phone call with two of our staff members.

We are committed to making reasonable adjustments where possible to maximise access to volunteering. If you have an access requirement and want to join our team, please do get in touch and we will find the right role for you.