

Volunteers Event Information Sheet 2026

Key Dates

Saturday 1 August 2026 & Sunday 2 August 2026

Volunteer arrival date: Friday 31 July 2026

Volunteer departure date: Monday 3 August 2026

Build & Break roles are available from Thursday 30 July 2026. If you would like to volunteer with this team ahead of the event, please indicate this in the availability section and confirm what relevant experience you have in this particular role/area.

Volunteer Application Opening, Closing and Expected Notification Date

Opens: Monday 11 May 2026

Closes: Monday 8 June 2026

We expect to notify all volunteers who have been successful by Monday 8 June 2026.

Apply via the following application form link: <https://form.jotform.com/261302171953350>

Requirements & Expectations

- You must be 18 years or older to volunteer
- You must be reliable and show up for your agreed shifts
- Respect for fellow volunteers, crew, artists, and attendees is essential
- Zero tolerance for harassment, discrimination, or unsafe behaviour
- Follow instructions from supervisors and festival management
- You must not have any unspent convictions

Shifts

Shifts will be scheduled across the festival weekend, totalling **5 hours**. You will be assigned 1 x 5 hour shift in return for access to the duration of the Festival.

As festival operations can evolve throughout the event, volunteer roles may be adapted where needed. On-site teams will always be present to provide support and guidance during your shifts.

Please note that some volunteer shifts may take place outside of the main Festival weekend, including days before or after the event (for example, Monday 3 August). Any volunteers affected will be informed when their shifts are confirmed, based on the availability they provide in their application.

Please take this into account when applying & making travel arrangements.

Dates & Availability

General volunteer shifts take place during the festival dates. Exact dates and shift details will be confirmed with successful applicants.

Arrival and Shifts Declaration

I understand that if I am applying to volunteer at Cambridge Folk Festival 2026, there will be a mandatory onsite health and safety briefing at 7:00pm for all volunteers working at the Festival. Volunteers should also plan to collect their accreditation ahead of the 7pm briefing. Further arrival details and instructions will be provided by the Volunteer Coordinator to all successful volunteers closer to the Festival.

There will be a designated camping area available for those arriving on the Thursday that require camping space.

I understand that my volunteering commitment may require me to remain onsite and complete shifts up until 4pm on Monday 3rd August 2026.

If I am applying for a Build & Break (site crew) role, I agree to arrive in good time and complete all agreed build and break shifts. I understand that no camping or overnight accommodation is provided during the Build & Break phases, and that these roles are therefore best suited to local applicants.

Bond

I understand that I may be required to pay a £50 refundable bond.

If I fail to complete my agreed shifts, I understand that I may forfeit my bond and risk being required to leave the site.

This is non-negotiable. **Please note, Cambridge City Council staff and Returning Staff are not required to pay a deposit.**

Cancellation

I understand that if I choose to cancel my volunteer place, deductions will be made from my £50 bond as follows:

- 15th June to 30th June - £20 deduction
- After 30th June - the full bond will be forfeited

This is necessary as late cancellation disrupts the successful build and running of the festival.

Camping Arrangements

Volunteers can camp during the duration of the Festival. You will need to let the Volunteer Coordinator know or indicate on your accreditation form if you require space for a tent. The accreditation form will be sent out closer to the Festival.

Tents should be no bigger than a 2-3 berth tent unless sharing with others.

It is not possible for volunteers to bring a live-in vehicle with them (caravan/motorhome).

Catering

Please note onsite catering options will not be in operation until 1pm on Friday 31 July 2026. Any volunteers working prior to this date and time should make alternative arrangements.

Accessibility

Please let us know if you have any accessibility requirements you would like us to be aware of so we can support your participation in the event. You can do so by indicating on the application form.

FAQ's

I am not from the UK. Can I volunteer?

Yes, it's possible to in some cases! You can volunteer at our festival if you are:

- From the Common Travel Area (UK, Republic of Ireland, Isle of Man)
OR
- An EU/EEA citizen with Settled or Pre-Settled Status, European Temporary Right to Remain, or a Working Holiday Visa.

If you hold another type of visa, please check whether it allows you to volunteer before applying.

Please note:

- Visitors from the EU can volunteer for up to 30 days in total.
- Unfortunately, we can't provide or sponsor volunteer visas.

What will I need to bring with me?

- You'll need to bring your own camping gear, including a tent, sleeping bag and airbed.
- Please pack clothing suitable for all weather conditions, including warm, cold and wet. A waterproof jacket, sturdy waterproof footwear and a warm layer are strongly recommended, along with sun protection such as a hat and sunscreen. We can provide emergency ponchos, earplugs and sun cream if required.
- As the event takes place in early August in the UK, weather can be unpredictable and evenings may feel cold, so layering is essential, especially for night shifts.
- Remember to bring a reusable travel mug and water bottles to stay hydrated and reduce waste.
- Suitable footwear is essential - please wear sturdy shoes, boots or wellingtons while on shift.
- Bring a rechargeable power bank to keep your mobile phone and devices charged, as charging facilities may be limited.
- Please do not bring anything listed on the prohibited items list, a copy of which will be sent to volunteers by the Volunteer Coordinator closer to the Festival.

I need to cancel, what should I do?

Cancellations must be made at least six weeks before the start of the festival.

If you cancel before this deadline, no fee will be charged. However, cancellations made after this point without a valid reason will result in the loss of your deposit.

Where a valid reason is provided and supported with evidence, an administration fee of £20 may apply. To cancel your place, please email the Volunteer Coordinator.

Can I volunteer with my friend?

We will do our very best to make sure you're on the same shifts, but it can't be guaranteed. Please make sure to arrange your shift partner in advance of applying and ensure you have their permission to share their full name and email address on the application form.

When can I leave?

You are free to leave once you have finished your final shift, returned your tabard and any other issued equipment.

What do I need to include in my application?

- **Your contact information**
 - **Eligibility** - confirmation that you are aged 18 or over, have the right to volunteer in the UK and an unspent convictions declaration
 - **Your preferences & availability** - including the days you are available, whether you have a 'shift partner' you would like to volunteer with, and your top three artist preferences for the Festival
 - **Your experience** - including why you want to volunteer, what makes you a strong team member, how you have handled a challenging situation in the past, any customer-facing experience, and any relevant voluntary or paid experience at festivals or events, as well as any relevant skills or qualifications
 - **Additional information** - such as accessibility requirements or any further comments you wish to include
 - **Your consents, declarations & agreements** - including the refundable bond, shift and cancellation terms, code of conduct, drugs and alcohol policy, confirmation that the role does not constitute employment, and GDPR and data storage consent.
-