



The HOV Fellowship

STORYTELLING
OF CHANGEMAKERS

COHORT 2

May - July 2025

HOV

HUMANS OF
VOLUNTEERING

ABOUT US

We are the Humans of Volunteering. We're a spirited bunch of storytellers and doers who believe small acts of kindness can spark big changes. Since 2020, we've been sharing volunteer stories to inspire action and celebrate everyday heroes. Our annual VolFest brings people together to roll up their sleeves, connect, and experience the joy of volunteering firsthand!

[Know More About Us on our Website](#)

Unveiling the Untold: Sharing Volunteer Stories.

Who are these people?

We share stories of your neighbours, colleagues, and friends - everyday people connected by a belief in giving back by volunteering in communities around them. They're the busy parent who donates blood, the teenager cleaning up a local park, or the artist using their talent to create awareness campaigns for social causes. These everyday heroes are united by a shared belief: volunteering is a powerful way to make a difference. [These are Volunteers for Social Change.](#)

How do they do it?

The impact of their actions comes in many forms. : Some directly join NGOs, while others volunteer their time and skills independently. They donate, teach, share knowledge, and spread awareness; they do whatever they can do. [That's how they Volunteer.](#)

Why do we share their stories?

We share volunteer stories because they're more than just acts of kindness; they're infectious inspiration. These stories ignite a spark in others, break down barriers to entry, and showcase the real-world impact individual action can have. [We share these stories on our social media platforms.](#)



OUR LINE OF ACTION

Storytelling



Weaving narratives of everyday volunteers, we amplify their voices and ignite a spark of change through their inspiring journeys.

Community Building



Bridging the gap between volunteers and resources, we empower a vibrant community of changemakers united by a shared desire to make a positive difference.

Volunteering Festival



Igniting passion through action: VolFest, our annual volunteering festival where we celebrate volunteerism, connects non-profits with the community for a day of hands-on experiences and shared purpose.

OUR HEARTBEATS (AKA CORE VALUES):



- **Harmony:** We weave kindness into every interaction. Harmony resonates through every endeavor we undertake, weaving kindness and gratitude into the fabric of our interactions, and fostering an environment where empathy thrives.
- **Collaboration:** Teamwork makes the dream work—transparency and purpose guide us. Collaboration stands as a cornerstone, embodying the values of transparency and purpose, guiding our collective efforts towards shared goals with openness and clarity.
- **Inclusivity:** Everyone's voice matters. Always. Inclusivity forms the bedrock of our community, ensuring fairness and faith in every engagement, embracing diversity as our strength, and creating spaces where all voices are heard and valued.



THE HOV FELLOWSHIP: STORYTELLING FOR CHANGEMAKERS

The HOV Fellowship is a 3-month, part-time virtual program designed to turn everyday changemakers into powerful storytellers. Through this immersive experience, you'll be invited to step into the world of volunteering—not as a bystander, but as a witness, a listener, and a voice.

You'll walk alongside real people who are doing good in quiet, impactful ways, and learn how to transform their journeys into compelling video and written stories.

Each week, you'll learn storytelling techniques in virtual sessions with mentors and peers. Then, you'll head into your own community—your streets, schools, neighborhoods—to uncover the stories of those who give their time for a cause greater than themselves. These are stories that move hearts, challenge perspectives, and fuel movements.

Whether you're capturing a young student teaching children in a slum, an elderly woman feeding strays, or a group cleaning a local lake—your role is to amplify their impact and make the invisible visible. This is storytelling for change. This is the HOV Fellowship.



JOURNEY OF A
VOLUNTEER

THE HOV
FELLOWSHIP

THE WORLD OF
INSPIRITAION &
ACTION

THE PROGRAMME

The HOV Storytelling Fellowship – Cohort 2 runs from May 3 to July 30, 2025.

The Fellowship is a dynamic blend of online learning, hands-on fieldwork, and community mentorship, tailored to help participants build real-world storytelling skills while shining a light on the everyday heroes driving social change. Through this 3-month journey, Fellows will explore the art and responsibility of storytelling, and apply those learnings to document the lives and impact of volunteers in their own neighborhoods.

The program is designed to balance creativity, flexibility, and structure. Fellows engage in weekly online sessions and field-based storytelling assignments, supported by mentors, peers, and the Humans of Volunteering team.

Induction & Welcome Call (May 1, 2025)

An introduction to the HOV community, storytelling principles, expectations, and team allocations.

Weekly Learning Modules (May – July 2025)

Fellows attend structured virtual learning sessions every week, covering:

- Fundamentals of People-First Storytelling
- Interviewing with Empathy
- Video & Visual Storytelling (Reels, Shorts, Graphics)
- Building for Social Media – What Makes a Story Shareable
- Ethical Storytelling – Consent, Boundaries, and Representation
- Structuring Impact Narratives – From Raw Story to Published Piece
- Tools & Platforms – Canva, CapCut, Google Docs, Social Templates

Ground Action in Your Vicinity (Ongoing)

Each week, Fellows will find and feature volunteers within their own local community—capturing photo/video-based stories and writing personal narratives.

Story Labs & Reflection Circles (Mid-Program & End)

- Dedicated spaces for group reflection, feedback, and storytelling strategy development. Fellows share their challenges, wins, and aha moments.

Graduation & Showcase (July 31, 2025)

- A virtual celebration and showcase of standout stories, key learnings, and the collective impact of the cohort.

THE FELLOWS: WHO CAN APPLY

The HOV Fellowship is interdisciplinary and inclusive, welcoming applications from passionate individuals across creative, social, and civic fields. Whether you're a budding storyteller or someone with lived experience in grassroots work, if you believe stories can spark change, this fellowship is for you.

We're especially excited to hear from individuals with backgrounds in:

- Creative writing & poetry
- Journalism or blogging
- Theatre, film, or media studies
- Photography or videography
- Graphic design or visual communication
- Social work or community organizing
- Podcasting or audio storytelling
- Social media management or content creation
- Volunteering or civic leadership
- Non-profit communications
- Youth leadership or activism

You don't need to be a professional writer or filmmaker. You need to be curious, committed, and driven by the idea of using stories for social good.



ELGIBILITY

To apply for the HOV Storytelling Fellowship, you must:

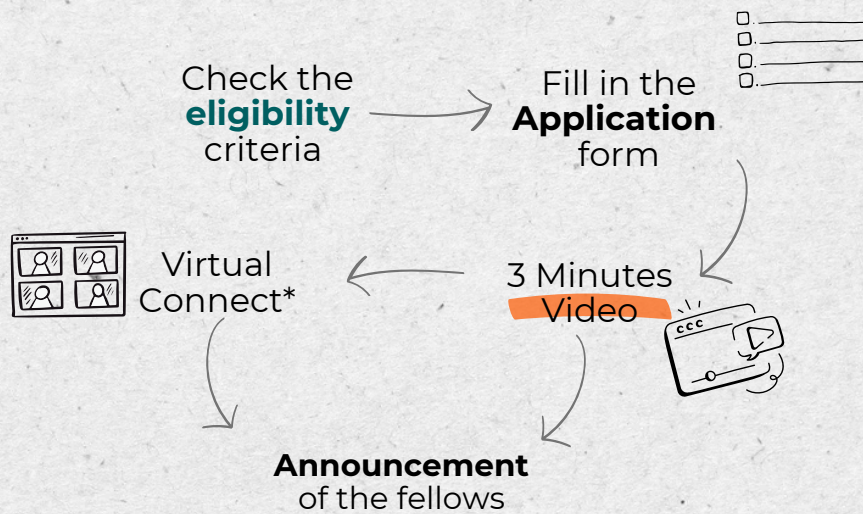
- Be 16 years or older
- Be based in India
- Have basic access to the internet and a smartphone/laptop
- Be available and committed for the entire fellowship duration: May 1 – July 30, 2025
- Be able to dedicate 4–6 hours per week to Fellowship activities (learning + fieldwork)
- Have some experience in at least one of the following:
 - Storytelling (writing, video, audio, social media, etc.)
 - Volunteering, activism, or social impact work
 - Content creation or communications (formal or informal)
- Be comfortable working remotely and participating in virtual check-ins
- Have an interest specifically in the development of impact and in making a difference with their work

WHAT FELLOWS RECEIVE

Being a part of the HOV Fellowship is not just about what you give—it's also about what you grow, gain, and carry forward. Here's what you can expect:

- **Stipend** : Receive an honorarium of INR 5,000 upon successful completion of the Fellowship, acknowledging your time, creativity, and commitment.
- **Certificate of Recognition** : Get a digital certificate celebrating your contribution as a storyteller of change—perfect for your resume, portfolio, or LinkedIn.
- **HOV Goodie Kit** : A curated token of appreciation to thank you for being part of the HOV family.
- **Networking & Community** : Connect with a diverse community of changemakers—mentors, past fellows, volunteers, and social impact leaders from across India. Outstanding fellows may be invited for long-term volunteer roles, special projects, or future mentorship opportunities with Humans of Volunteering.

APPLICATION PROCESS



Stage 1: Application Form

Start by filling out our Google Form. This helps us understand your background, interests, and motivations for joining the Fellowship. [Click here to apply.](#)

Stage 2: Submit a 3-Minute Video

Shortlisted applicants will be asked to share a 3-minute video where you:

- Introduce yourself
- Share your interest in storytelling
- Tell us why you're curious about people who volunteer
- Talk about the kind of change you hope to create

This doesn't have to be polished—just real, reflective, and honest. Record it on your phone. We're listening to your voice, and somewhat your video quality.

Stage 3: Virtual Conversation (if required)

In some cases, we may invite applicants for a short virtual call with the HOV team. This is just a friendly check-in to explore your passion, clarify any questions, and help us get to know you better.

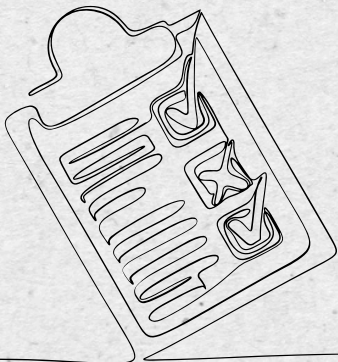
Deadline to Apply: April 25, 2025 | Applications are reviewed on a rolling basis, so don't wait till the last moment!

IMPORTANT DATES

Milestone	Date
Applications Open	April 5, 2025
Application Deadline	April 25, 2025
Notification of Results	April 27–29, 2025
Pre-Fellowship Induction Call	May 1, 2025
Fellowship Begins	May 3, 2025
Weekly Learning & Storytelling	May – July 2025
Mid-Fellowship Check-in	Mid-June 2025
Fellowship Ends	July 30, 2025
Graduation & Showcase	July 31, 2025

CONTACT

Please read the FAQ before applying. If you have any questions that are not covered in the FAQ, please email us at thehovfellowship@gmail.com



FAQs

What happens after I'm selected for the HOV Fellowship?

Once selected, you'll receive a welcome email from the HOV team with your onboarding kit. You'll also be invited to our Virtual Induction Session on May 1, 2025, where you'll meet your mentors, learn about the program structure, and get started on your journey.

How many Fellows will be selected for this Programme?

We plan to select up to 5 Fellows for the Storytelling Fellowship

Will I have a mentor? How often will I interact with them?

Yes! All Fellows will have a common mentor during the induction & throughout the 3-month journey with weekly check-ins, feedback, and support whenever you need a sounding board.

What are my weekly responsibilities as a Fellow?

- Identify and interview volunteers (virtually or in person), create content, post on HOV platforms, and engage with the audience.
- Capture & Edit Videos to Transform them into powerful stories, write social posts, and collaborate.

All Fellows are expected to attend weekly check-ins, meet deadlines, and support one another.

What tools or platforms will I need to use?

You'll primarily use:

Social Media: Instagram, Facebook, Twitter

Video Shooting: Your Mobile Phone, Camera (if applicable)

Design & Editing: Canva, CapCut or any mobile video editor

Writing & Submissions: Google Docs, Google Drive

All tools used will be beginner-friendly and mostly free.

Are there any costs involved in the Fellowship?

Nope! The entire Fellowship is free of cost. We aim to make it accessible and inclusive for everyone.

Will my travelling Cost be covered?

We won't be reimbursing any costs.

FAQs

How will my performance be evaluated?

Performance is measured through a few key expectations:

Commitment: Active participation throughout the 3 months

Timeliness: Regular submission of tasks and story deadlines

Engagement: Connecting with volunteers and audiences

Impact: Creating content that resonates and drives awareness

Collaboration: Supporting your team and contributing ideas

Meeting these expectations qualifies you for all completion benefits.

Can I collaborate with Fellows from other teams?

Yes, absolutely! Cross-team collaboration is encouraged. It's a great way to diversify your skills, gain fresh perspectives, and co-create powerful content.

What if I need to exit the Fellowship early?

While we hope you'll stay for the full journey, we understand that life happens. If you must exit early:

Inform your mentor/coordinator at the earliest

Wrap up any pending tasks, if possible

Note: Early exits will lead to forfeiture of the stipend, certificate, and goodie kit, and may affect eligibility for future HOV programs.

Will there be opportunities to continue with HOV after the Fellowship?

Yes! Fellows who complete the program may be invited to join HOV's extended volunteer team, work on future projects, or even return as mentors in the next cohort.

How can I make the most of this Fellowship?

Stay curious and open to feedback

Engage actively in discussions and reflections

Explore different storytelling styles

Build connections with your cohort

Above all, listen deeply and tell stories with heart

The HOV Fellowship Manifesto

We weave narratives of everyday heroes, whose acts of kindness—big and small—spark a ripple effect of change. Their stories become blueprints for action, breaking barriers and showing the real-world impact of volunteering.

Storytelling is our bridge—connecting hearts, hands, and resources. Every hour donated, every story shared, every act of compassion fuels a growing movement.

We shine a light on these diverse journeys, celebrating the many ways individuals shape a better world. No single narrative stands above the rest; together, they form a powerful portrait of collective impact.

**“Stories don’t just reflect the world — they reshape it.
Through every voice we amplify, we bring kindness
into focus and make action contagious.”**



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