

SNAP STUDIOS

SPOOKED: FREELANCE STORY SCOUT

Snap Studios, the creator of the award-winning Snap Judgment radio show and podcast (heard on over 450 public radio stations across the US and downloaded over a million times each month), is seeking Story Scouts for its supernatural podcast, Spooked. Spooked is a production of Snap Studios and KQED.

Spooked features true-life supernatural stories, told firsthand by people who can barely believe it happened themselves. Be afraid! Spooked episodes garner over a million monthly podcast downloads and are broadcast on Snap Judgment during the Fall, as stations host Spooked Marathons across the nation. The show has earned multiple honors, including a 2026 Gold Signal Award for “Best Paranormal and Horror” and Gold for “Best Original Score,” as well as a 2025 Gold Signal Award for “Best Paranormal or Horror Show,” as well as Gold and the Listener’s Choice for “Best Live Podcast Recording.” Spooked drops Apple Podcasts chart-topping releases that dominate the Arts category all of Fall, but fans listen all year long. The show has been featured in *Rolling Stone, Vulture, The Atlantic*, and was recognized as one of Spotify’s “Best Episodes of 2022.”

We seek compelling stories from all corners of the globe! In past seasons, we've worked with Story Scouts from Australia, Canada, the Caribbean, China, Columbia, England, Germany, India, Indigenous Communities, Mexico, the Phillipines, Uganda, Kenya, and all across the United States.

The Story Scout is responsible for finding and pitching original stories for the show in the realm of paranormal and supernatural activity. Candidates must have lived in, have extensive contacts in, and/or have a deep cultural knowledge of the region. The Story Scout reports to the Spooked Managing Editor. This is a remote, contract position. The Story Scout can be located anywhere in the world. We are looking to hire four Story Scouts.

Story Scouts will pitch stories twice a month (usually on Wednesday at 10 am PST). Story Scouts will receive a monthly retainer ($1500) as well as bonuses for successful pitches ($300 per story) that make it into an episode. In addition, depending on experience, interest, and availability, Story Scouts may also have the chance to produce individual Spooked stories, for which they will be paid separately ($140/minute). The contract is for five months and is expected to start in late March.

RESPONSIBILITIES INCLUDE:

● Finding three to four pitches a month for Spooked that are viable and match the voice, personality, and content parameters of the show.

● Ensuring all potential story subjects are interested in and comfortable being on Spooked

● Initial research and due diligence on story viability. Synthesis of the pitch in a way that identifies stakes, characters, and arc. The candidate should be a compelling writer.

QUALIFICATIONS:

● Familiarity with pitching narrative stories; ability to identify character with agency and stakes, as well as story arcs and scenes.

● Strong writing and research skills. Ability to grow a pitch from a kernel of an idea and draft a compelling story.

● Use personal and professional networks to find word-of-mouth Spooked stories. Track down unique first-person stories, from self-published memoirs to the far reaches of YouTube, Reddit, and elsewhere.

● Commitment to fair and respectful storytelling.

● Ability to act as a professional agent of the company when approaching people for story details and developing their comfort with the idea of being show subjects.

● A good attitude and a willingness to work closely with teammates

EDUCATION:

● Bachelor's degree or equivalent experience

● One or more years of related work experience

PREFERRED SKILLS:

- Understanding of the Spooked voice and strong familiarity with the Spooked catalog.
- Ability to work well under pressure, within the framework of tight deadlines.
- Clear communication skills with the ability to be effective across the diverse team.
- We will happily consider applicants from outside of audio with *strong narrative storytelling backgrounds*. Filmmakers, writers, poets, storytellers, journalists, historians, and anyone with a highly tuned sense of story is strongly urged to apply!

To apply, please send a cover letter and resume to jobs@snap.kqed.org by January 6th, 2027. Applications received after the deadline will not be considered. Please state in the subject line — Spooked S11 Story Scout. In your cover letter, please describe your connections and where you would scout for stories, as well as the types of stories you would pursue for Spooked.

Snap Studios is an Equal Opportunity Employer actively seeking diversity in the workplace. We encourage people of color, people with disabilities, veterans, women, and gender-non-conforming candidates to apply.