

Fellowship Program 2009-2011 Job Description

Through the U.S. PIRG Fellowship Program, you'll get the kind of experience it takes to make your voice heard on issues that matter. The goal of the U.S. PIRG Fellowship Program is to develop recent college graduates for important roles in the movement for positive social change. As a U.S. PIRG fellow, you'll gain the hands-on experience it takes to organize public support. You'll build expertise on transportation solutions, campaign finance reform, toxic pollution cleanup or another important issue. You'll conduct research, craft policy solutions, act as a spokesperson to the media, build coalitions, write grants, recruit activists and members, and develop the kind of political support you need to win. Your day-to-day work might include meeting with a state or national decision-maker, researching or writing a report, canvassing door-to-door, conducting a news conference, or directing a citizen outreach campaign. You'll work alongside a senior mentor. Upon successful completion of the two-year program, you'll be eligible for a leadership role within the organization.

The Fellowship Program positions include, but are not limited to:

Issue Associates: As an issue associate, you'll master your issue area and build the kind of powerful support it takes to make your voice heard and change public policy. Responsibilities include: researching and writing reports, developing and coordinating campaigns, preparing legislative testimony, building statewide and national coalitions, organizing media events, raising funds, and meeting with elected officials.

Field Associates: As a field associate, you'll build and demonstrate support for U.S. PIRG proposals at the state or federal level to ensure that decision-makers hear from and pay attention to the public. You must quickly master the basics of a variety of issues, and then reach out to individuals, media outlets and organizations to build visibility and gain their support.

Issue associates and field associates may work on any of the following issues: transportation, prescription drugs, government aid to higher education, toxic pollution cleanup, money in politics, voting reform and more. Each fellow takes on the critical role of building the organization by canvassing for portions of the year in addition to running a citizen outreach office in the summer months.

Make your voice heard on our country's most pressing issues

If you're looking for a powerful experience that helps change America for the better, consider U.S. PIRG (U.S. Public Interest Research Group). U.S. PIRG is a federation of state-based, nonprofit, nonpartisan organizations that work for the public interest on issues ranging from our nation's energy policy to the rising cost of higher education to the strength of our democracy. We all know that our country has no shortage of problems. We also have a surplus of solutions. Clean energy can reduce our dependence on foreign oil and our role in global warming. Congress can increase grant aid and improve student loan programs. Paper trails can help make sure that every vote counts. Our professional staff focus on finding good ideas and pushing for real change, even when a powerful interest stands in the way. We've built a 30-year track record of overcoming these obstacles to achieve real results, due in part to the fact that we hire dozens of smart, talented staff and give them plenty of responsibility from day one on the job.

Positions available in: AZ, CA, CO, CT, FL, GA, IA, IL, IN, MA, MD, ME, MI, MO, NC, NH, NJ, NM, OH, OR, PA, RI, TX, WA, WI and Washington, D.C.

Training & Experience

A key part of the U.S. PIRG mission is to train leaders who are capable of organizing and winning results for the public interest. Immediately following an intensive training, fellows are trusted with significant responsibilities in their jobs. The training lasts nine days, is fully paid, and starts in mid-August in Boston. Three additional trainings take place during the rest of the year. Training topics include skills and political strategy; and topics are covered in a mix of lectures, classroom briefings and discussions, role-plays and in-the-field training. Throughout the year, you gain valuable skills and experience in both making your voice heard on the issues and building an organization through grant-writing, canvassing, recruiting and managing staff, and directing campaigns.

Placement

Fellowship candidates are hired nationwide and placed in U.S. PIRG offices across the country. If you are interested only in particular locations, you will be asked to identify those locations during the interview process. If you are offered a U.S. PIRG fellowship, you are guaranteed placement in one of your desired locations. In most cases, final placement, including location and position, occurs during the August training in Boston.

Qualifications

We are looking for motivated individuals who are willing to work hard and commit themselves to getting results. We value experience with campus groups or student government, academic achievement, commitment and outstanding verbal, written and leadership skills. But most of all, we look for people who find a way to make a difference.

Salary & Benefits

As a recent graduate, you will earn \$23,750 in your first year with U.S. PIRG, and \$24,250 in your second year. Salary for experienced candidates is commensurate with relevant professional experience and/or advanced degrees. You will be eligible to opt in to our group health plan, and will accrue two weeks paid vacation over the course of your first year, (three weeks in your second year) and will be eligible to apply for college loan assistance. In your second year, you will also be eligible to participate in our 401(k) plan.

Locations

U.S. PIRG is currently hiring for positions in: AZ, CA, CO, CT, FL, GA, IA, IL, IN, MA, MD, ME, MI, MO, NC, NH, NJ, NM, OH, OR, PA, RI, TX, WA, WI and Washington, D.C.

How To Apply

Pick up a brochure at your career placement office and schedule an on-campus interview, or apply online at www.uspirg.org/jobs.

Questions

Please contact Sarah Bennett in our Recruitment Department with any questions. E-mail her at jobs@uspirg.org or call (617) 292-4800.