

Campus Organizer 2009-2010 Job Description

Students are traditionally at the forefront of movements for positive social change. U.S. PIRG campus organizers tap student idealism and energy, and help student volunteers and activists channel their concerns in the most effective ways. Campus organizers work on three to six campaigns in a semester, which could include: working to pass a clean energy bill in the state Legislature; increasing youth voter turnout in an upcoming election; or fighting hunger and homelessness in the local community. The role of a campus organizer is two-fold: achieve concrete social change victories while developing the next generation of leaders. Through this approach, campus organizers organize the kind of power it takes to solve our country's current problems while ensuring that legacy continues well into the future.

Responsibilities include:

Organizing Projects And Campaigns: Campus organizers work on three to six projects or campaigns on their campuses, giving students an opportunity to solve pressing problems. Here are a few recent examples of victories on our campus chapters: At the University of Massachusetts, Campus Organizer Molly Chafetz and student leaders worked to ensure that their state senator stepped up to the plate to lead the way in passing the state's Global Warming Solutions Act. The bill passed and was signed by Gov. Deval Patrick in 2008 and is one of the strongest global warming laws in the country. At the University of Northern Iowa, Kathleen Cogan worked with student leaders to make sure the presidential candidates campaigning in Iowa were addressing the issues that are important to young people in the state. Thanks to her work, the students spoke to nearly every presidential nominee candidate and made an impact on their campaigns. At Evergreen State College, WashPIRG campus organizer Blair Anudson worked with students to get the campus to commit to buy 100 percent renewable energy through a student fee.

Educating Students And Training New Leaders: Campus organizers play a critical role in informing the campus community about important public issues. They also work closely with student volunteers and leaders, teaching them critical skills that help them make their voices heard. Organizers help students build expertise on the issues, learn how to conduct research, work with the media, recruit volunteers, build support among other groups, and influence decision-makers. Campus organizers also oversee internship programs, through which students can earn academic course credit for public interest research and advocacy.

Building An Organization: Campus organizers build active, cohesive and highly visible campus chapters that are recognized by faculty and student leaders as assets to the campus community. During the academic year, campus organizers learn to canvass, and during the summer months, campus organizers run our highly effective citizen outreach campaigns.

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 U.S. PIRG's mission is to train leaders who are capable of organizing and winning results that improve people's lives—from passing clean air protections to toughening campaign finance laws. U.S. PIRG conducts an intensive, three-week, paid training program for campus organizers. Training begins in late July and includes two weeks of field work with experienced U.S. PIRG staff, followed by one week of classroom training. At the end of training, new campus organizers are placed at a specific college campus, with placement determined by the individual organizer's skills and experience. Campus organizers also participate in other training events, including regional conferences and a national staff training in Denver, Colorado.

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 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 over the course of your first year with U.S. PIRG. 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, accrue two weeks paid vacation and be eligible to apply for college loan assistance.

Locations

U.S. PIRG is 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. If you are only interested in particular locations, you will be asked to identify those locations during the interview process. If you receive an offer, we'll guarantee you a placement in one of those locations.

How To Apply

You can 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.