

Jobs & Opportunities With The State PIRGs

www.pirg.org ■ jobs@pirg.org

Address real problems and get meaningful results.

America has more problems than we should tolerate, and more solutions than we use. That phrase captures the spirit in which the state PIRGs were founded. If you want a job where you can start to implement these solutions, and investigate, educate, advocate and organize each day on behalf of consumers and the environment, consider a job with the state Public Interest Research Groups (PIRGs). The state PIRGs are a national network of nonprofit activist organizations that advocate for the public interest. Starting with thorough research, we tackle problems that need to be solved.

Fellowship Program 2004-2006 Job Description

The goal of a PIRG Fellowship is to help develop leaders for the public interest movement. You might see yourself becoming a field organizer, advocate—or even director of a public interest group someday. As a PIRG Fellow, you gain hands-on experience in organizing, advocating and leading public interest campaigns in your first year on staff. More importantly, you get real results, whether at the local, state or federal level. And your experience is complemented by intensive training and the direction and advice of a senior mentor.

As a PIRG Fellow, you'll build expertise on global warming, campaign reform or another social problem. You conduct research, make the case for solutions, act as a spokesperson to the media, build diverse coalitions, write grants, and organize the kind of politically powerful support you need to win. Your day-to-day work might include lobbying a state or national decision-maker, researching or writing a report, conducting a news conference, or directing a grassroots citizen outreach campaign. 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 are expected to master your issue area, research and write reports, develop and coordinate campaigns, prepare legislative testimony, build statewide and national coalitions, organize media events, raise funds, and lobby elected officials in support of legislation.

Field Associates: As a Field Associate, you work to demonstrate support for PIRG proposals at the state or regional level. 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. This year, Field Associates organized support for measures to solve California's energy crisis, stop drilling in the Arctic, and protect open space from out-of-control development.

This year, issue associates and field associates may work on any of the following issues: sprawl, global warming, democracy, biotechnology, factory farming, clean air, toxic waste, energy, banking and financial services, consumer protection, health care, endangered species, wilderness preservation, higher education, clean water or transportation.

The State PIRGs Recruitment Director

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The State PIRGs are hiring for positions in:

CA, CO, CT, FL, GA, IA, IL, IN, LA, MA, MD, ME,
MI, MN, MO, NC, NH, NJ, NM, NY, OH, OR, PA,
RI, TX, VT, WA, WI and Washington, D.C.

Training

A key part of the PIRG mission is to train leaders who are capable of designing and winning public interest campaigns, from the first steps of research to the last news conference where the governor signs our bill into law.

As a PIRG Fellow, you attend a nine-day, paid training starting in mid-August in Boston, Massachusetts, and attend four additional national trainings throughout the year—all of which emphasize a range of organizing and advocacy skills. Training includes lectures, discussions, skills workshops and issue briefings. In addition, you receive ongoing supervision and training from a senior staff director.

You gain valuable skills and experience building an organization dedicated to public interest activism, including fundraising through grant-writing and canvassing, recruiting and managing staff, and directing grassroots campaigns.

Placement

Fellowship candidates are hired nationwide and placed with state PIRGs in offices across the country. This year, we will also be placing a few Fellows with PennEnvironment and Environment California, the new homes of PennPIRG's and CALPIRG's environmental work.

If you're only interested in certain locations, you're asked to identify those locations during the interview process. If you are offered a PIRG Fellowship, you are guaranteed placement in one of your desired locations. 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, public interest 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 \$19,500 in your first year with the state PIRGs, and \$21,000 in your second year. You receive health insurance, accrue two weeks paid vacation in your first year, three weeks in your second year, and you'll be eligible to apply for college loan assistance.

Locations

The state PIRGs are currently hiring for positions in: CA, CO, CT, FL, GA, IA, IL, IN, LA, MA, MD, ME, MI, MN, MO, NC, NH, NJ, NM, NY, OH, OR, PA, RI, TX, VT, 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.pirg.org/jobs.

Questions

Please contact Peggy Lo in our Recruitment Department with any questions: E-mail her at jobs@pirg.org or call (617) 292-4800.