



MSW Internship Position

Background

The Nine Mile Run Watershed is a small urban watershed located in Pittsburgh's East End. Covering just 6.5 square miles, the watershed is home to numerous exciting initiatives, including the largest urban stream restoration in the United States completed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The Nine Mile Run Watershed Association (NMRWA) complements this amazing physical transformation with a variety of innovative urban ecology projects designed to directly involve the community in helping to improve the health of the watershed. While restoring and protecting our own watershed, we also work regionally to support and implement resilient solutions for a healthier urban environment.

Over the years our programming has grown and now includes urban forestry, green stormwater infrastructure (GSI), water quality monitoring, youth education, municipal outreach, and public policy advocacy. We are a founding member of the Our Waters, Our Rivers Campaign, which focuses on community organizing and social/environmental justice platforms around access to clean, safe, affordable water for all residents of Pittsburgh. We also pioneered certain types of GSI installations in our watershed communities of Homewood, East Hills, and Wilkinsburg. The planning efforts for these large projects include relationship building with residents to engage and empower them in the process to make sure the efforts are sustainable and have lasting impacts on the neighborhood.

Overview

NMRWA seeks an intern for 2020-21 from the University of Pittsburgh, Master's in Social Work (MSW) Program. A candidate with the specialization in Community, Organization, and Social Action (COSA) would be preferred. As a small nonprofit organization, we are offering this opportunity for a student to gain valuable experience working directly with disadvantaged communities around the topic of environmental justice. The candidate would report directly to and work closely with the Assistant Director, along with other program managers.

Responsibilities

Depending on the candidate, the responsibilities can be tailored and adjusted to meet specific strengths, experiences, and interests. Below is a list of expected projects.

1. Represent NMRWA as a member of the Our Waters, Our Rivers Campaign. This includes attending bi-monthly meetings, planning community organizing events, and providing resources as needed.
2. Attend community meetings and organize coalitions of neighbors interested in social and environmental justice issues, clean water, and climate equity.
3. Create blog posts, newsletter articles, and social media posts about climate equity and justice.

Qualifications

A passion for or interest in the environment is preferred. Any experience working in urban areas with diverse populations would be valuable to the work that we do and this position entails. Any volunteer or paid experience with community organizing, campaigns, and coalition building would be preferred but not required.

Specifics

This position follows the field experience required by the University of Pittsburgh, MSW Program. The candidate would be with NMRWA from September 2020 to April 2021. Ideally, the intern should be able to supply their own laptop to work on in the Nine Mile Run office. Access to organization computers may be limited at certain times.

How to Apply

Interested candidates should notify their assigned Field Education Coordinator during the matching process. The Field Education Coordinator will share the student's resume and a letter of interest to our Assistant Director.

NMRWA is committed to creating a diverse environment and is proud to be an equal opportunity employer. All qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, color, religion, gender, gender identity or expression, sexual orientation, national origin, genetics, disability, age, or veteran status.