AmeriCorps Positions With NJ Community Water Watch

2004-2005 POSITION DESCRIPTION

We all want to make a difference. But too many jobs require us to leave our conscience at home. If you want to put your ideals front and center when you leave college, consider a term of service with NJ Community Water Watch, a project of New Jersey Public Interest Research Group and AmeriCorps.

NJ Community Water Watch is a statewide environmental program working with 15 college campuses to solve urban water pollution problems by organizing hands-on education and service projects in the surrounding communities. By organizing the resources of college campuses, we are tackling local problems and creating measurable and visible results.

Program

Our waterways—rivers, lakes, streams, and oceans are a key element in our ecological infrastructure, providing food, drinking water, agricultural and recreational uses. Our waterways will carry out their important, life supporting functions only if we clean up and protect them from harmful activities. Today, in New Jersey, over 80% of our lakes and streams are degraded so significantly that they are considered too polluted for fishing or swimming. Water quality is an important issue for every community and ranks as one of the public’s greatest concerns.

New Jersey Community Water Watch, a project of NJPIRG Law & Policy Center and AmeriCorps was started nine years ago to address real environmental problems facing communities and get meaningful results. The program works with college students and community members to achieve the following goals through its cutting edge approach to waterway restoration:

- To improve local water quality and clean up waterways through community organizing in urban areas across the state;
- To strengthen urban communities by uniting a diverse group of people around the common goals of revitalizing waters and improving public health;
- To instill in community members and volunteers an appreciation of the natural environment and a sense of civic responsibility; and
- To train community members and volunteers in the fundamentals of environmental and community organizing.

Campus Organizing

More than any other segment of society, students have the time, the energy, the resources and the idealism to make a difference on environmental problems. As a Campus Organizer you lead clean water programs, educate and empower college students, train new leaders, and make a difference locally in cleaning up New Jersey’s waterways.

::::::www.waterwatchonline.org::::::

In one semester a NJ Community Water Watch Organizer will recruit interns and volunteers to work on service projects, meet with local and state officials to attend community clean-ups and events, organize the media to write about problems of a local waterway, teach elementary school children about water quality issues and survey miles of local streams and rivers. Campus organizers work with faculty and up to 100 student volunteers, while they oversee a course credit internship program where students learn vital citizenship skills.
**Training**
A key part of the NJ Community Water Watch mission is to train leaders who are capable of designing, fighting and winning local projects to defend the environment.

Training begins the first week of August and includes briefings on local water quality issues and workshops on organizing skills. Following that, the State PIRGs provide an intensive, two-week, paid training program for NJ Community Water Watch Organizers. Organizers participate in other training events, including regional conferences and a national training in Denver, Colorado.

**Qualifications**
We are looking for motivated individuals who are willing to commit themselves to getting results. We look for experience with campus groups or student government, academic achievement, social change commitment, and strong verbal, writing and leadership skills.

**Benefits**
Graduates commit to a 9-month term of service with AmeriCorps and receive a stipend of $10,197 during that time. Upon completion of the program, members receive an education award of $4,725 that can be used to pay off student loans or for future education at most colleges and universities for up to seven years. Members also receive health coverage and 2 weeks vacation during their term.

**Equal Opportunity**
NJ Community Water Watch is an equal opportunity employer. Selection decisions are made without regard to race, color, creed, national origin, sex, age, religion, sexual orientation, disability or marital status.

**Locations**
NJ Community Water Watch has sites in Wayne, Montclair, Teaneck/Hackensack, Newark, New Brunswick, Princeton, Camden, Freehold, Toms River and Atlantic City.

**To Apply**
Email or fax a cover letter and resume to Allison Cairo, Program Director, NJ Community Water Watch: allison@waterwatchonline.org, fax (732) 220-1179.

**Questions**
Please contact Allison Cairo, NJ Community Water Watch Program Director, with any questions: Allison@waterwatchonline.org or call (732) 249-4108.

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