

## **Campaign Internship with MASSPIRG Public Health, Recycling and Zero- Waste, Public Transportation Fall and Spring Semesters**

[www.masspirg.org](http://www.masspirg.org)

We all want to make a difference, but too many internships require students to leave their conscience at home. At MASSPIRG, our interns can put their ideals front and center.

That's because interns with MASSPIRG campaign to achieve concrete, practical changes that benefit the public.

This year, we are looking for interns to work with us on the following campaigns:

- Promoting a 21<sup>st</sup> century public transportation system.
- Increasing recycling and reducing waste.
- Promoting public health by getting lead out of drinking water and reducing the overuse of antibiotics on factory farms.

Please see our website [masspirg.org](http://masspirg.org) for more details on all our campaigns.

Our staff of attorneys and public interest advocates provide interns excellent training and experience by assigning them significant and meaningful responsibilities. Here's our approach:

- Work side by side with the staff of MASSPIRG, focusing on real problems that affect people in their daily lives, whether funding public transportation or fighting for zero-waste policies.
- As a MASSPIRG intern, you will join one of our public interest campaign teams. You will study the problem and then break it down into a manageable project, one in which the outcome can be influenced by the right combination of careful research, a smart political strategy, and demonstrable public support.
- While much of MASSPIRG's work centers on the legislative arena, MASSPIRG takes issues to whatever forum offers the best hope of winning concrete results – state or local governments, courts, regulators, or even corporations. We organize: identify and mobilize support, build coalitions, lobby decision makers, educate public, work with the media. We do whatever it takes to get things done.

### **Internship Overview and How to Apply**

- Candidates must commit to 8-15 hours per week **during the semester**. Schedules be flexible and interns can work during our normal work hours of Monday-Friday, 9am-6pm provided it fits with the campaign and supervisor's schedule. Internships are unpaid.
- All years and majors are welcome to apply and there is no minimum GPA. Ideal candidates should have strong communications skills, an interest in social and political issues, and previous campaign experience.
- Send an email to Deirdre Cummings at [dcummings@masspirg.org](mailto:dcummings@masspirg.org) stating your interest. Include your resume, a compelling cover letter, and the campaign issue/s that interest you, and how many hours a week you can work.

### **Responsibilities**

Our approach requires each intern not only to develop expertise in public policy, but also to become skilled in organizing and the political process. Here are some areas you may gain experience:

- Devising an effective strategy for a political campaign. Whether a MASSPIRG proposal becomes public

policy is often a matter of how the problem is framed for public debate. You will work to identify shifting reasons why the public supports public transportation and reform across the state.

- Conducting investigative research. Facts, figures and examples are the bedrock of any intelligent public policy debate. As a MASSPIRG intern you will pull together the research necessary to illustrate problems and demonstrate the viability of the proposed solution.
- Media outreach. MASSPIRG interns work to get our issues and opinions covered by the media, through news releases, press conferences, interviews, "op-eds," online, and more.
- Organizing political support. MASSPIRG interns help to broaden the constituency for our proposals, assisting in building, organizing, and managing a coalition of support that works to sway decision-makers.

## Requirements

What qualities and abilities does being a MASSPIRG intern require?

A commitment to public interest issues.

Strong organizational abilities.

The ability to engage others, whether one-on-one or in a group.

The ability to think strategically.

A willingness to engage in creative conflict, to persevere, and to lead by example.

Strong writing and communication skills.

We have MASSPIRG internships available for undergraduate and graduate students in law, political science, public policy, sociology or environmental studies, but students in any area of study may apply. Intern supervisors provide ongoing training. **Previous campaign, organizing and/or advocacy experience is required.**

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All internships are unpaid.

8/28/18