



Indiana Wildlife Federation Fellowship With Support from National Wildlife Federation

Topic: Engaging Indiana universities and colleges with the Indiana Wildlife Federation Phosphorus-free Lawn Fertilizer Campaign

Location: Central Indiana

Timeframe/ Compensation: The Fellow will work for 1 year from approximately May 1st, 2010 to April 30th, 2011 with IWF and receive a \$2000 stipend.

Application Deadline: Applications will be accepted until March 31th, 2010.

Background: The Indiana Wildlife Federation campaign focuses on education and advocacy to restrict phosphorus in an effort to conserve local wildlife habitats and improve drinking water quality in Indiana. Phosphorus, an essential plant nutrient, helps plants establish root systems and store energy, but in excessive amounts phosphorus can damage local rivers, streams, and lakes. A surplus of phosphorus supports algae overgrowth, resulting in unsustainable habitats for many native species and poor water quality. Phosphorus from lawn fertilizers greatly contributes to eutrophication, especially since most lawns do not require this nutrient. IWF, therefore, encourages the use of phosphorus-free lawn fertilizers. In collaboration with the National Wildlife Federation Campus Ecology program, IWF is excited to offer a fellowship to an undergraduate student (preferred junior or senior standing) at an Indiana college or university. This Fellow will work with the IWF team as the campus liaison to encourage the participation and involvement of local students, faculties, and campus staff in a statewide effort to restrict phosphorus. The Fellow will expand our campaign's support base and help advance phosphorus-free legislation.

Goal: Unite students, faculty, and staff at local Indiana universities and colleges to establish a network of support for the phosphorus-free campaign, leading to legislative action.

Key Responsibilities:

As part of the IWF team, the Indiana Fellow will be asked to:

- Research and develop a network of universities and colleges to integrate into IWF's campaign
- Distribute and advertise resources to campuses, i.e. website, fact sheet, references

- Motivate students to get involved and take action
- Communicate with student groups and advisors to develop innovative events/programs
- Assist IWF staff with planning and executing campaign events
- Encourage campuses to go phosphorus-free in their lawn care efforts
- Contact community leaders to expand campus programs in surrounding areas

Fellowship Program Requirements:

The Indiana Fellow must:

- Attend staff meetings biweekly at the IWF office. Note there is flexibility in scheduling these meetings and an option for a phone or video call.
- Send a biweekly memo with updates on the project to IWF staff.
- Submit two written reports on the progress/accomplishments of your Fellowship, the first at the mid-point and the second at the conclusion of your Fellowship.

Perks and Privileges:

- Participate in a professional project as part of a team within a non-profit organization
- Develop networking and communication skills
- Experience various campus activities and campaign efforts

Eligibility:

The Indiana Fellow must be an undergraduate student, ideally a junior or senior from any university or college in the Central Indiana area. Applications will be accepted from students in all disciplines, but special consideration will be given for those with environmental or biology-related majors. Applicants should be enrolled in a university for the duration of this fellowship.

Grant Terms:

The Fellowship will last for 12 months with flexible start and end dates. The Fellow will dedicate approximately 10 hours per week on this project depending on class schedules and other obligations. The Fellow will primarily work from his/her home campus or at the IWF office based on the individual's discretion, but IWF will require the Fellow to travel to several other campuses throughout the course of the Fellowship.

The Fellow will receive a stipend of \$2,000 for one year of work. (S)He should use this stipend to cover any accumulated expenses.

How to Apply:

To apply for the Fellowship:

Send your application to Marija Watson at the Indiana Wildlife Federation, Watson@indianawildlife.org.

1. Please submit a cover letter and resume along with two letters of recommendation, one recommendation must be from a faculty or staff person at your college or university.
2. Identify a grant processor or grant processing department on your campus that will be responsible for receiving and distributing the fellowship grant money. Please confirm with this person and/or department this role and get their approval and include their contact information in your application.

Applications are reviewed by a committee to determine which meet the selection criteria. All applicants will be notified of their status within one month of their application deadline.

Evaluation of Applications:

The Fellow application will be analyzed based on:

- Interest in environmental and conservation work
- Campus/student group involvement
- Experience organizing campus events or programs
- Creative ideas or concepts to engage student groups
- Strong communication (**written** and **oral**) and professional skills
- Independently motivated and driven
- Ability to research and apply knowledge to project
- Dedication to advance this campaign within a communications and education capacity
- Support IWF by continuing involvement as member