Alumni/Bennion Summer Community Service Fellowship

Application and Information Packet

DESIGN

6-8 weeks full time service placement

YOUR

$4,000 funding

SUMMER

2016

$1,500 scholarship

This fellowship is a cooperative effort of the University of Utah Alumni Association, the Lowell Bennion Community Service Center, and communities throughout the U.S.
PURPOSE OF FELLOWSHIP

The purpose of this fellowship is to give students, alumni and the University the opportunity to expand their concept of community. Through this fellowship students will learn they can make a contribution beyond their own locality as they undertake substantial service work in another part of the country. Fellows increase their understanding of community service by contributing their skills and experience to an organization, linking them to others as an active participant of a national community.

FELLOW EXPECTATIONS

Bennion/Alumni fellows are expected to:

- Fulfill a 6-8 week, full-time service placement with a public service agency/nonprofit in the United States, outside of Northern Utah. Fellows may work in direct service, indirect service, public policy, or a mixture of all three.
- Individually, and independently design their fellowship to meet their own research interests and skills. Ultimately it is the fellow’s responsibility to set up their own contacts, placements and service arrangements with the agencies they will work with, therefore a high level of independence and ability to work without direct supervision is expected.
- Arrange and pay for their own transportation both to and from the destination city, as well as transportation costs commuting within the city during the fellowship.
- Independently manage fellowship funds and arrange for housing, and living expenses during fellowship.
- Communicate with and submit a mid-term report of the fellowship half-way through its duration.
- Complete a final written report of their experience within one month of their return and turn in to the Bennion Center.
- Share their experiences, if requested, with interested audiences including the Alumni Association and Bennion Center Boards following completion of the fellowship.
- Attend two pre-fellowship events: Alumni Association Spring Awards Banquet (Date TBA) and Bennion Center farewell lunch (Date TBA).
- Engage with University of Utah alumni in the surrounding area during the fellowship.
- Engage in leadership and active volunteer opportunities within the Bennion Center the academic year after their summer fellowship.
- After graduation, fellows are expected to participate in the Alumni Chapter in their area. Fellows may be asked to organize Chapter community service activities, advocate opportunities for future Alumni/Bennion Fellowships and encourage others to join.

APPLICANT CRITERIA

- Have at least one year of experience as a community service leader through the Bennion Center or another campus service organization.
- Plan to commit a year of service through the Bennion Center when they return.
- Show outstanding commitment to community service in their work and are eager to share their interest in service with others.
- Ability to work independently with little supervision.
- Ability to work with diverse populations and communities.
- Demonstrate the personal strength and capacity to enter a new environment, assess the working conditions and independently structure their work to make a useful contribution.
- Are able to move to another city for 6-8 weeks in the summer.
- Preference will be given to proposal whose agencies are share a location with an University of Utah alumni chapter presence.
- Are not a graduating seniors.
BENEFITS OF PARTICIPATION

- Opportunity to work full-time for 6-8 weeks in a service setting outside of the greater Salt Lake Valley area, gain work experience and build professional skills
- Opportunity to work with diverse communities, individuals, and programming
- Public speaking opportunities to share experience of fellowship upon return
- $4000 stipend provided jointly by the Alumni Association and the Bennion Center to cover living expenses
- Upon successful completion of the 6-8 week service placement, the Alumni Association will provide an additional $1,500 scholarship for returning matriculating students for the Fall 2015 Semester
- Opportunity to cultivate professional references for future job search

APPLICATION & SELECTION PROCESS

1. Interested applicants should attend one info session:
   - *Monday, Feb 8, 2016* (12-12:30pm in the Bennion Center)
   - *Friday, Feb 19, 2016* (12-12:30pm in the Bennion Center)
   - *Thursday, March 3, 2016* (4:30-5:00pm in the Bennion Center)
2. Connect with Laura Schwartz (laura.schwartz@utah.edu) to flush out ideas and/or proposals for fellowship. Alternative Break Site Leaders or Prospective Site Leaders are highly encouraged to do this if interested in pairing the fellowship with creating a new trip.
3. Applications are due March 24th, 2016 by 5:00pm
4. Finalists will hear back approximately within a week of submitting their application.
5. Finalists will be interviewed by the Community Service Committee of the Alumni Association, which then makes the final selections in early April.
6. Selected fellows are welcome to choose the specific dates of their fellowship so long as it takes place during the duration of Summer Semester.
7. Students awarded the fellowship will work one-on-one with Laura Schwartz to finalize logistics and details. The Alumni Association will assist fellows by:
   - Arranging contact with area chapter officers and alumni
   - Inviting fellows to any chapter activities
   - Providing assistance in investigating possible fellow placements
8. Send-Off Breakfast for fellows with John Fackler prior to leaving for summer fellowship
9. Presentation to Bennion Center and Alumni Advisory Boards Fall 2017 upon return from summer fellowship.
10. Year of service to the Bennion Center after summer alumni fellowship Fall 2016-Spring 2017

For more information about the fellowship, planning, or one on one consultation, please contact Laura Schwartz in the Bennion Center (Union 101). laura.schwartz@utah.edu  801-587-9027
Alumni/Bennion Summer Fellowship Program Cover Sheet
DUE March 24, 2016 by 5pm to Union 101

This program provides 6-8 week fellowships to students in support of a full-time community service placement outside of Northern Utah during the summer term. Fellowships must be served in the United States. The 2015 stipend amount per fellow is $4,000. Upon successful completion of the 6-8 week fellowship, a $1,500 scholarship will be provided to returning matriculating students for the Fall 2016 semester. Submit your application packet to Laura Schwartz at the Lowell Bennion Community Service Center, Union Building, Rm 101

I. Complete this section.

Name: _______________________________ Date: __________________

Street: ________________________________

City: __________________ State: _______ Zip: __________________

Email: _______________________________ Primary Phone: ______________

UNID: ____________________________ Class Standing: __________________________

II. Attach the following:

☐ Résumé, including community service experience. Please indicate if you will be a matriculated student for the 2016-2017 academic year

☐ Essay that includes information about the city in which you would serve, the organization you would work with and the type of service you would perform, as well as how this experience would benefit you. Please see notes below for what makes a strong application.

III. Personal interviews: Personal Interviews will be conducted with finalists early April 2016 with representatives of the Bennion Center and the Alumni Association. Fellowship recipient selections will be made early April.

Please Note:

• Strong applicants will have already chosen a city to serve in and made contact with an agency to verify that organization can provide work for 6-8 weeks. It’s important for the applicant to consider the funding available ($4,000) and ensure it’s sufficient for their transportation, housing and day to day expenses.

• The host agency and type of service will be determined by selected fellows, with the help of Alumni Association and Bennion Center staff. Cities may be determined by the applicant although we encourage the consideration of cities with active Alumni Chapters. Cities and areas with currently active alumni chapters are: Arizona; Boise, ID; Boston, MA; Dallas, TX; Houston, TX; Denver, CO; Las Vegas, NV; Los Angeles, CA; New England; New York City, NY; Orange County, CA; Portland, OR; St. George, UT; San Diego, CA; San Francisco Bay Area, CA; Seattle, WA; Southern Nevada; Chicago, IL, and Washington, D.C.

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Guidelines for Designing Your Summer Fellowship

Agency/Nonprofit Selection

- Research agencies whose mission/work you are passionate about. When contacting agencies to see if they could take you on as a fellow, ask the following questions:
  - What type of work would I be doing?
  - What would a typical 35-40 hr week look like?
  - How would this fellowship contribute to accomplishing your organizational mission?
  - What types of skills will I need, or need to learn? Are you willing to train/mentor me?
  - Do you have an insurance policy that would cover me as a volunteer or employee if I am injured while volunteering/working for your organization?
  - What are the biggest challenges of the position I would be taking on?

The decision to select a location should take into consideration many factors:

- Location of agency/nonprofit you want to work with
- Cost of living in location
- Travel/transportation costs of location
- Preference will be given to locations that are alumni chapter cities (Arizona; Boise, ID; Boston, MA; Dallas, TX; Houston, TX; Denver, CO; Las Vegas, NV; Los Angeles, CA; New England; New York City, NY; Orange County, CA; Portland, OR; St. George, UT; San Diego, CA; San Francisco Bay Area, CA; Seattle, WA; Southern Nevada; Chicago, IL, and Washington, D.C.)

Budgeting

The Fellowship provides $4000 to cover all living costs associated with the Alumni Fellowship for its 6-8 week duration. Transportation to and from the fellowship location is the responsibility of fellow. It is important to have researched cost of living for rent, and a working budget for food and transportation.

- Costs for personal transit/public transit?
- Lodging/rental costs
- Weekly food budget/other living expenses
- Fellowship length can range from 6-8 weeks. It may be in the best interest of the student to have a shorter fellowship in areas with higher costs of living

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