



McKinney Climate Fellows Program 2022 McKinney Climate Fellow – Indiana Forest Alliance

Who We Are

Indiana Forest Alliance is a non-profit, statewide organization dedicated to the long-term health and well-being of Indiana's native forests. We are volunteers and staff working to protect and restore Indiana's forests. IFA serves citizens, organizations, landowners, and communities with a wide range of interests in Indiana's forests. We provide accurate information to the people of Indiana to involve them in efforts to protect Indiana's forests and ensure their opportunities for input into decision-making that affects forests. We speak for the native animals, plants, and other creatures who depend on Indiana's forests and cannot speak for themselves.

Our mission is to preserve and restore Indiana's native hardwood forest ecosystem for the enjoyment of all.

Our vision is to have a reforested Indiana where Hoosiers can enjoy a natural sanctuary and that harvests of our unique hardwoods are genuinely sustainable.

Our overall goals for the McKinney Climate Fellow are to help us with the implementation and outreach of our Forests for Indy initiative, helping preserve our urban forests, and to assist with scientific research of Indiana's wild forests. Forests play a vital role in sequestering carbon and mitigating climate change, and we seek a student that is passionate about preserving our forests.

POSITION SUMMARY

The McKinney Climate Fellow will be responsible for taking the lead on select initiatives and assisting with sustainability and climate projects. Based on the skillset of the student, they may provide support for the Forests for Indy initiative and/or the Ecoblitz, IFA's series of bioblitzes in our state's wild forests. **The Fellow's responsibilities will be tailored to the student.** Duties listed below represent **possible** responsibilities to give an accurate representation of project areas within the Ecoblitz or Forests for Indy initiative that a Fellow **may** be involved in. IFA will work with the Fellow to identify the best balance of below listed duties, which may include all or only a portion of the below list.

Duties **may** include:

- Working with Indianapolis neighborhoods to adopt and implement protections for trees by conducting outreach and trainings
- Recruiting and organizing neighborhood volunteers in Indianapolis to champion tree protection in their neighborhoods

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- Assisting with outreach and advocacy activities including festivals, presentations, and phone calls to members, volunteers, and neighborhood associations
- Writing social media and blog posts, taking photos, and creating videos to promote the Forests for Indy initiative and educate the public on urban forests' role in mitigating effects of climate change & achieving long-term sustainability for Indiana communities
- Tracking the Indianapolis Department of Metropolitan Development (DMD) for any proposals that would impact forests within Indianapolis
- Establishing a system for tracking DMD proposals that would impact Indianapolis forests
- Researching urban forests and protection strategies, such as surveying existing urban forests in Marion County or researching opportunities to create a cash flow from urban forest carbon sequestration
- Assisting with field work or serving as a guide for Ecoblitz scientists within our state's forests during biological surveying efforts
- Attend the Boot camp May 16-20, 2022
- Attend weekly (virtual) "Lunch and Learns," Wednesdays from 12:00pm-1:30pm
- Submit weekly Canvas reports over the course of the fellowship

Qualifications

- Excellent verbal and written communication – comfortable giving presentations to groups
- Experience working with Google suite
- Previous coursework in biological science preferred
- GIS experience preferred

Compensation

Compensation will be in the form of a scholarship through the Environmental Resilience Institute. The Fellow will work full time for 10 weeks, beginning in late May, preferably on May 23, 2022.

Feedback and evaluation

The Fellow will be given regular feedback from staff on progress and performance. Success in the fellowship will be determined by the completion of specified projects in a professional and timely manner. The Fellow should learn how this organization identifies its sustainability priorities, effective principles of communication, and how to develop and maintain professional relationships.

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Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

The McKinney Climate Fellows Program supports the continual advancement and development of diverse, inclusive, and equitable spaces. Indiana climate change solutions should be equitable in implementation, and projects with equity considerations are encouraged to reduce climate change impacts on marginalized communities in the state.

Application instructions

To apply for this position, complete an application on the Environmental Resilience Institute's website. If you have questions about the program or any of the positions available, email Danni Schaust, MCF Program Manager, at danmcphe@iu.edu, or Sarah Miller, MCF Project and Outreach Coordinator at sjm8@iu.edu. Applications will be accepted on a rolling basis (first come, first serve) until Monday, February 14, 2022.

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