



Foundation for Youth Resiliency and Engagement (FYRE)

Youth Advocate

Supervisor:	Mady Sandoval, Co-Director, Youth & Community Connections
Salary:	\$14.49/hour, 24 hours/week for 10 weeks
Period of Employment:	June 21, 2022 - August 26, 2022 3 days per week
Participation Requirements:	Living in the Methow Valley for the summer Enrollment in UEPP 471 Campus Sustainability Planning Studio course Meets 2 days per week (3 credits) Optional internship credits are available but not required (up to 8 credits)

Overview

FYRE's mission is to advocate for equitable opportunities that allow all youth to thrive. The Foundation for Youth Resiliency and Engagement (FYRE) is one of the only youth centers located in rural Okanogan County, Washington State's largest county by land mass. Living in a rural community often means there is a scarcity of resources but elevated needs. FYRE offers wraparound services to our most vulnerable youth ages 12-24 – this includes educational advocacy, increasing accessibility to whole-person health services, providing referrals and resources to youth experiencing homelessness and youth who have been sexually exploited, supporting teen parents, and more. In addition to these direct services, we strive to reach all youth by offering a safe space for them to hang out, play games, grab food, attend life-skills workshops and support groups, and attend event nights.

We offer an array of services capable of meeting the needs of all youth. The Youth Advocate Fellow will have the opportunity to participate in several different areas of our work, including direct mentorship and involvement with our youth, event planning and coordination, joining our various youth leadership group meetings, engaging community members, and developing/implementing several of FYRE's summer resiliency programs! In addition to the hands-on work, the Youth Advocate Fellow will participate in weekly staff meetings, collective learning, self-care practices, and trainings that will help them better understand the stark disparities our marginalized communities face and best practices for supporting traditionally underserved youth and communities. FYRE is one of the few nonprofits in our area that is ran by POC and folks with direct lived experience, this is a critical component to reaching our BIPOC youth and other historically excluded young people. Interning for FYRE presents the opportunity to gain a wealth of knowledge about our rural complexities, historical trauma, and resiliency. Come be a part of the emerging radical change FYRE is fighting for!

Responsibilities

- Co-Facilitate Youth Advisory Committee Meetings (FYRE's Youth Board) and attend Youth Leadership Council (county-wide peer educator group) monthly meetings.
- Assist co-workers in securing concrete goods (grocery drop offs, school clothes, hygiene items, etc.) for youth and families facing food and/or housing instability
- Work with FYRE team to develop, advertise, and host community-wide events in the park
- Coordinate and support various summer resiliency programs
- Work with FYRE team to code-switch outreach materials, aimed at making information resources more accessible to those who need it most
- Plan and facilitate Youth Event Nights (trivia nights, board games night, etc.)
- Attend community partnership meetings, trainings, and dialogue around accessibility of resources, equity, and outreach strategies
- Assist in various youth needs assessments through intentional relationship building with young people
- Work at the Youth Center front desk
- Plan a workshop that you will implement for a group of young people (this will be in collaboration with your supervisor)
 - This should address a need that you heard from our youth during your time at FYRE.
Examples: self-care conversation and crafts, healthy relationships, career exploration, self-advocacy, youth rights, etc.

Qualifications and Experience

- Ability to work some nights and/or weekends
- Deep sense of empathy for youth
- Ability to work from Omak and attend classes in Twisp

Educational/Professional Benefits

This position will allow our fellow to intimately learn and understand the unique challenges rural communities face, including how environmental and systemic racism and bias show up in our most vulnerable communities. Interns will learn about the significance that colonization, boarding schools, and forced assimilation has had on our local Tribe, and the resulting generational trauma. The fellow will be a part of a team dedicated to looking at social work through an equity lens, gaining insights from BIPOC about unintentional harm that white-led organizations often inflict upon the very people they are trying to help. Working with a majority BIPOC team will increase cultural competency and will directly benefit future social work endeavors. Lastly, FYRE aims to minimize hierarchy and welcomes interns to be involved in mission-critical conversations around our direct-service work, internal structures, and larger systems changes. Working for a newer organization offers a unique opportunity to leave your fingerprints on something meaningful and make a true impact.

**Find more information about Sustainability Pathways Fellowships at: <https://sustain.wwu.edu/pathways>
Please direct all questions to Sustainability Pathways Director, Joshua Porter at: Joshua.Porter@wwu.edu**

