

Sustainability Journalism Fellow

Organization:	Methow Valley News
Organization Address:	PO Box 97, Twisp, WA 98856 502 S. Glover St., Building S
Hourly Pay:	24 hours/week for 10 weeks
Period of Service:	June 17 – August 30, 2024 3 days per week: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday <i>Because of the nature of the job, some weekend assignments may be necessary.</i>
Participation Requirements:	Living in the Methow Valley for the summer Housing is provided by Sustainability Pathways All students enroll in UEPP 471 the Campus Sustainability Planning Studio The course meets 2 days per week (3 credits) on Wed & Fri afternoons Optional internship credits are available but not required (up to 8 credits) Optional service as a Civic leadership & Engagement Corps AmeriCorps member is also available, providing a \$1,300 education award for completing 300 hours of service. All practicum time and service field trips count as service.

Organizational Overview

The Methow Valley News is a weekly newspaper devoted to comprehensive and accurate coverage of news, events, personalities, and issues of general community interest. We serve the valley not only as a primary information source but also as a connection point for people and organizations to find each other in common interests. And we celebrate the community's achievements. We also have a significant online audience and daily presence through our website and social media platforms.

Position Description

Our reporters are expected to be flexible in covering a variety of stories including news, features and events. Basic photography skills are required as well. Because of the focus of this practicum, we will try to identify sustainability-themed assignments but may make other assignments as well. And because of the nature of the major issues facing the valley these days, "sustainability" covers a lot of territory: the economy, ecological/environmental challenges, housing, tourism, health care, etc.

Duties & Responsibilities

- Report on assigned stories as appropriate and directed by supervisor
- Prepare written articles for use in the newspaper, and provide photography when possible
- Assist the newspaper's production process as appropriate. We will not expect the student to come up with their own story ideas, but would certainly be open to suggestions if they have them. We would work closely with the student on both reporting and writing skills development

Required or Desired Qualifications and Experience

Our approach to internships is that they are not intended to teach people how to do journalism, but rather build on the existing skills of students who have already had some journalism training and experience, in this case most likely through the very well-regarded WWU journalism program. They should arrive with a fundamental understanding of how to report and write stories, and some representative clips of their work to date. To be perfectly blunt: We are not interested in people who "want to write." We need people who have already proactively set themselves on a potential course as a journalist.

- Ability to work some nights and/or weekends would be advantageous.
- Familiarity with social media platforms.
- Personal transportation preferred but not required.

Educational/Professional Benefits

Our goal with internships is that they benefit both parties — the newspaper gets good stories to publish that will be of interest to the community, and the intern gets valuable experience in reporting, writing and developing story ideas that have meaningful impact. We treat interns as members of the staff with attendant responsibilities.

Find more information about Sustainability Pathways Fellowships at:

<https://sustain.wvu.edu/pathways>

Please direct all questions to Sustainability Pathways Director, Joshua Porter at:

Joshua.Porter@wvu.edu