



Organization Background:

Calabasas Alliance is a local non-profit organization dedicated to the well-being of residents and the environment in Santa Cruz County and Southern Arizona. We focus on education, advocacy and community outreach to protect the environment, natural resources, public health, and environmental awareness/fairness principles. Our efforts address threats from industrial activities, such as mining and ore processing, including the Hermosa Project and proposed manganese facilities, which risk contaminating water, air and soil with heavy metals and PFAS. We also work on existing environmental issues such as pollution from the International Wastewater Treatment Plant and the accompanying pollution from PFAS, heavy metals, solvents and bacteria.

The organization was established in 2023 by concerned residents of Santa Cruz County to oppose mining threats and advocate for environmental protection.

We are deeply involved in the community through numerous educational events with expert scientists, thoughtful discourse with the Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors and other policy/political leaders. We engage with State and Federal governmental leaders, introducing of a State bill to regulate manganese levels, we have partnership with University of Arizona researchers on the Air Smart Monitoring Program and PFAS conference, and work with The Tohono O'odham Nation Environmental Protection Office on programs. We also host speaker series "MINE THINK" and "WATER THINK" and run monitoring initiatives for air quality on PM2.5 county wide through the AirSmart program.

We primarily serve residents of Santa Cruz County and Southern Arizona, with a special emphasis on vulnerable groups such as children, and communities at risk from environmental contamination, while promoting fairness in environmental issues for all.

This project will positively affect our organization by enhancing our capacity for data-driven advocacy, expanding monitoring efforts and strengthening collaborations with academic partners like the University of Arizona. It will provide valuable data and deliverables to support our goals of protecting public health and the environment, ultimately helping us prevent Santa Cruz County from becoming an environmental sacrifice zone.

Organization website: www.calabasasalliance.org

Internship Project Title

Environmental Monitoring and Public Health Advocacy Internship

Project Description:

The project involves assisting the Board of Directors of the Calabasas Alliance in expanding community-based environmental monitoring and public health advocacy footprint in Santa Cruz County, with a focus on water quantity / quality (e.g., addressing PFAS contamination and groundwater depletion), air quality (e.g., toxins from mining activities), soil contamination (e.g., heavy metals like manganese and lead), biodiversity protection and economic sustainability. The scope includes collecting and analyzing environmental data (e.g., from ADWR groundwater reports and ADEQ monitoring), supporting community outreach and educational events, contributing to policy development (e.g., lobbying for amendments to the 1872 mining law and sustainable eco-tourism projects) and collaborating on the development of a local environmental information.

Specialized skills needed: Proficiency in data analysis (e.g., Excel, basic GIS or statistical tools), research and writing skills for reports, use and understand social media platforms, ability to edit content on our website (training provided), possible public speaking for community events and organizational abilities for event planning to support the President. No advanced expertise required, but familiarity with environmental science or public health is a plus. Bi-lingual in English and Spanish is helpful.

Those involved: Calabasas Alliance Board Members (including education advisors), ADEQ Community Science team, University of Arizona researchers, and like-minded groups such as The Friends of Sonoita Creek, Friends of the Santa Cruz River, The Patagonia Resource Alliance, The Sky Islands Alliance

Expected outcomes: Increased community awareness of environmental health risks, data-informed advocacy for policy changes and contributions to the awareness and education of an “at risk” community through precise messaging.

Deliverables: Summary reports on monitoring data (e.g., water quality analyses), educational materials (e.g., flyers or presentations on public health threats), event summaries or outreach plans, and policy recommendation documents.

Other relevant details: Flexible work schedule of 10-15 hours / week, with potential for remote work. The ability to meet deadlines, and alignment with ongoing advocacy efforts (e.g., legislative sessions) is expected. Applicants should be aware of occasional fieldwork in Rio Rico or nearby areas for monitoring activities.

Internship project keywords (check all that apply).

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|--|---|
| ☐ Health Disparities | ☐ Maternal/Infant Health |
| ☐ Public Health Preparedness | ☐ Tobacco Use |
| ☒ Collaborations with Community | ☐ Injury/Violence Prevention |
| ☒ Collaborations with University | ☐ Immunization |
| ☒ Community health service | ☐ Infectious Disease |
| ☐ Physical Activity | ☐ Oral Health |
| ☐ Substance Abuse | ☐ Evaluation |
| ☐ Mental Health | ☒ Policy Development |
| ☐ Access to care | ☒ Program Planning |
| ☐ Nutrition | ☒ Data Analysis |
| ☐ Reproductive/Sexual Health | ☐ Other Click or tap here to enter text. |
| ☒ Environmental Health | |

When: *When do you want the work done? Check all that apply.*

- ☐ Fall Semester
- ☐ Spring Semester
- ☐ Summer Term
- ☒ I want this listing to remain active indefinitely and we will accept applications from students for any upcoming semester.
- ☐ This listing is only for a specific semester/term: _____

Where:

Organization Mailing Address: 1377 Camino Faja, Rio Rico, AZ 85648

Address where Student will work (if different from above): for meetings; fieldwork in Rio Rico/Patagonia areas

☒ Check here if the student may have the option to work remotely from a site not listed above for all or part of this project.

Student Characteristics:

A good fit would be a student with a passion for environmental fairness and public health, strong analytical skills for data handling (e.g., interpreting graphs like ADWR groundwater estimates), organizational talent for coordinating events and comfort with public speaking or community engagement. Interest in policy advocacy and sustainable development is ideal. The ability to “work the problems” unafraid, curious, and flexible personality traits will be helpful. This is a good internship for a student with an entrepreneurial spirit or curiosity. .

Level of Expertise Needed: *Do you wish to request an MPH program intern or an undergraduate public health program intern?*

Undergraduate: The internship for undergraduates should provide an experience that allows students to incorporate classroom learning into public health practice.

Graduate: Applied experiences for graduate students should require application of advanced knowledge and skills to the solution of health problems and the production of at least two agency-based deliverables.

Both experiences prepare students for future employment.

☐ MPH

☐ Undergraduate

☒ Either

Supervision

Robin Lucky, President and Chief Education Advisor, will provide supervision to the intern. Her background includes over 15 years as a resident of Rio Rico, Arizona, with expertise in marketing, environmental education, public health advocacy and community organizing. She has led educational initiatives, spoken on environmental risks at county meetings, and contributed to programs like the "AIR SMART" collaboration with the University of Arizona and Arizona State University.

Compensation / Benefits / Professional Development

No stipend or travel reimbursement is available, as we are a small non-profit. However, the student will be invited to participate in internal professional development opportunities, such as attending our "MINE THINK" and "WATER THINK" speaker series, educational events with scientists and networking with partners like ADEQ and University of Arizona researchers. External opportunities, like conferences on environmental health, may be available if funding allows (e.g., we can cover registration if grants permit, but travel is self-funded). The student could be included in publications, such as co-authoring monitoring reports or policy briefs submitted to legislators.

Application Contact Information

Potential interns should apply by emailing a resume, cover letter explaining interest in environmental health advocacy, and two references to RLucky@CalabasasAlliance.org,

Attn: Robin Lucky. No additional supporting documents are required initially, but writing samples (e.g., research papers) are encouraged.