

JOB DESCRIPTION

Position: Agriculture Outreach Coordinator
Classification: Full Time or Part Time
Location: Iowa or Illinois
Date Prepared: March 3, 2023
Supervisor: Agriculture Program Director



LOCATION

Iowa or Illinois.

SUMMARY OF POSITION

We are looking for one full-time person, or two people working approximately half-time, to organize support for the League's agriculture policy goals, with a focus in Illinois and Iowa.

Working under the direction of the Agriculture Program Director, the Agriculture Outreach Coordinator or coordinators will be primarily responsible for developing and implementing organizing strategies designed to achieve the League's public policy goals focused on clean water, healthy soils, and wetland conservation. Initially the primary focus will be on organizing support for the League's advocacy work in support of conservation priorities in the federal Farm Bill in Iowa and/or Illinois, and in nearby Congressional districts in surrounding states. Longer term, the position(s) could involve organizing support for state policy goals as well as federal agricultural policy goals.

The Coordinator(s) will regularly educate, communicate with, and mobilize IWLA members, allies in the small business community (including farmers), and conservation organizations and agencies. The Coordinator will contribute to regional and local media strategies that support advocacy goals. The Coordinator will provide support for program fundraising efforts. The position(s) are based in Iowa or Illinois, with potential periodic work in surrounding states.

DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Outreach, Advocacy and Organizing

- Develop and implement strategies to organize support for IWLA's vision of a more sustainable agriculture system and for concrete policy objectives that will advance that vision.
- Schedule and facilitate multiple meetings and other communications between business allies, IWLA members, and their Members of Congress.
- Maintain, grow, and engage the IWLA's network of small business allies (including brewers, distillers, farmers, and outdoor recreation businesses) in advocating for USDA conservation programs and other federal clean water and climate change programs and policies. Educate and engage IWLA leaders and volunteers in that same advocacy work.
- Work with conservation and farm organizations and agencies to coordinate our advocacy and media efforts.
- Support IWLA Iowa and Illinois Division advocacy at the state level by mobilizing the League's members and business allies when needed.

Communications and Media

- Facilitate the writing and publication of opinion pieces, letters to the editor, joint letters and online petitions, and other public messages that support the IWLA's advocacy work.
- Develop content for the IWLA Web site, social media, and publications, including *Outdoor America* magazine, and written outreach and advocacy materials as needed.
- Produce regular email updates for IWLA members and allies in Iowa and Illinois.
- Develop and regularly communicate with a network of local and regional reporters and editors in support of our goals.
- Work with the IWLA's Save Our Streams staff to use volunteer stream monitoring data in support of our agricultural policy advocacy goals.
- Serve as liaison between IWLA members and chapters, other volunteers, state agencies responsible for water quality, agriculture, and natural resource management, and the IWLA national office.

Grant Management and Development

- Track and report on deliverables, time, expenses and other grant-related information.
- Assist in the identification, cultivation, and development of proposals for new funding sources for the program.

QUALIFICATIONS

- Bachelor's degree (or equivalent experience) in public policy, communications, or related field.
- At least 3-5 years of experience in community or grassroots organizing, coalition-building, and public policy advocacy.
- An energetic self-starter who is able to work independently, establish and deliver on priorities, and independently manage multiple tasks in a fast-moving, high workload environment.
- A 'people person' excited to reach out, speak with, listen to, and connect with diverse audiences, including small business owners, hunters, anglers, and farmers.
- Demonstrated knowledge of the federal and state public policy process.
- Excellent written and oral communication skills, including the ability to communicate complex concepts in understandable language.
- Ability to work as a team player with a diverse array of colleagues, partners, volunteer leaders, and others.
- Willingness and ability to travel extensively throughout Iowa, Illinois, and neighboring states, often for multiple days; must possess a valid state-issued driver's license and own or have access to a vehicle.
- Demonstrated ability to work with various forms of news media would be highly beneficial.
- Knowledge of sustainable/regenerative agriculture, agriculture conservation issues, and Farm Bill conservation programs would be highly beneficial.
- Successful fundraising or grant-writing experience would be beneficial.
- Strong personal commitment to advancing the cause of conservation and natural resource stewardship is essential.

COMPENSATION

We are open to applicants interested in a full-time position, as well as to applicants willing to provide services at approximately a half-time position, or applicants interested in either arrangement. The full-time position has an expected salary range of \$48,000-\$52,000 depending on skills and

experience. The part-time positions would be at a proportional rate, and could be on a staff or contract basis. For a full-time position, the League offers a benefits package that includes health care, paid vacation and holidays, life insurance, dental and other benefits.

THE IZAAK WALTON LEAGUE

The mission of the Izaak Walton League of America (IWLA), founded in 1922, is to conserve, restore, and promote the sustainable use and enjoyment of our natural resources, including our soil, air, woods, waters, and wildlife. Our members and staff combine hands-on conservation action, policy work with legislatures and resource agencies, and public education to pursue our conservation goals at the local, state and national levels. The IWLA Agriculture Program relies on public policy advocacy and education to promote a vision of American agriculture that provides abundant, healthy food through farming and ranching systems that focus on soil health and conserve our soil, air, woods, waters and wildlife.

To apply: Send a cover letter that includes your interest and whether you are applying for the full-time position or a part-time position, or both, along with a resume, with the subject line "Organizer Position" to AgJob@IWLA.org .

**The Izaak Walton League of America is an
Equal opportunity employer.**