



ACE Action Fellowship in North Carolina

The North Carolina Action Fellowship teaches young people the knowledge and skills to be confident climate leaders. Throughout the program, Fellows work with ACE and partners to build public support for climate action and to hold officials accountable on climate science and solutions.

The 2020 ACE NC Action Fellowship Program will engage high schoolers in climate justice activism in 3 regions: Charlotte/Mecklenburg, Raleigh/Triangle, and Eastern NC (location TBD). Fellows meet weekly to build skills and advocate for local climate solutions through campaigns and events. 63 high school students have participated in the NC Fellowship over the past 6 years.

A major focus of this year's Fellowships will be on relational organizing to register youth voters and mobilize them to vote for climate action in 2020!

WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS?

ACE Fellows will:

- Build knowledge of climate science, impacts, and solutions;
- Develop skills in public communication, as well as planning and executing projects;
- Work together with other Fellows and with ACE's partners on a local solution to climate change;
- Advocate for climate change solutions through writing, public speaking, or creative arts;
- Practice using social media, computers and other technology for professional development and mobilization on key climate justice related issues.
- Receive training and one-on-one mentorship from ACE staff;
- Build their resume with skills and experience;
- Be invited to apply for additional opportunities through ACE's partners;
- Receive a recommendation letter for college or a future job;
- Be a part of a national network of youth leaders;
- Earn service learning hours for school (depending on school policy);
- Receive a \$5 transportation stipend for each Fellowship meeting attended in person (Note: We will work with Fellows to figure out transportation to and from meetings and events if needed. We don't want transportation to be a barrier for participation in the program!);
- Receive a \$200 participation stipend per semester.



HOW DO STUDENTS APPLY?

[Apply here.](#) The application deadline is Sunday, January 26, 2020 with Fellowship cohorts kicking off in mid February 2020. We will be in touch with all applicants in early February about selections and next steps. We look forward to reviewing your application!

WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

High school students and recent ACE graduates (students who have been through the fellowship before) can apply.

The Fellowship engages and supports young, emerging leaders from a variety of backgrounds, skills, and interests who demonstrate a budding passion for climate issues and want to make a positive impact in their community. Participants in our program do NOT need to be top academic performers. It is, however, a great experience to put on resumes and college applications!

All applicants should be passionate about climate change, committed to working with ACE for the entire program (February - June), available for all program events, able to attend weekly meetings, and willing to learn and grow.

WHAT ARE THE EXPECTATIONS FOR FELLOWS?

To participate in the Action Fellowship, Fellows commit to:

- Attend Fellowship meetings every week
- Attend kickoff retreat, occasional weekend retreats, and special events
- Attend the NC Climate Justice Summit
- Respond to emails and texts within 24 hours
- Show up with enthusiasm, willingness to learn & be challenged, and a positive attitude!

WHAT DO FELLOWS DO?

Build leadership skills like organizing, communicating, and public speaking. Take action. Advocate for change. In addition to weekly meetings, Fellows organize advocacy campaigns to advance local climate solutions. Fellows speak at events, participate in marches, meet with elected officials, collaborate with partners, and do outreach to peers and the community.

PAST FELLOWSHIP HIGHLIGHTS:

In prior years, Fellows have been trained as Relational Voter Turnout (RVT) leaders and helped ACE pilot relational organizing strategies to turn out youth climate voters for the 2018 Midterm Elections. They have collected petition signatures from teachers, students and residents of Wake County, delivered public comments at Board of Education and Senate Rules Committee



meetings and met with local elected decision makers. Fellows have also spoken at rallies like the Raleigh March for Science and delivered workshops at the NC Climate Justice Summit and the NC Youth Climate Summit.

Campaigns NC Fellows have worked on include: advocating for the Raleigh City Council to pass a local resolution endorsing a Green New Deal, working with the Energy Justice NC: End the Duke Monopoly Coalition to bring about a Just Transition to clean energy in North Carolina, pushing for the Wake County School Board to commit to powering the district with 100% renewable electricity and supporting similar efforts in Durham Public Schools, and lobbying for NC Clean Path 2025, which calls for a 57% reduction in fossil fuel power plants by 2025 and 100% reduction by 2030.

QUESTIONS?

Please email Kathryn Kevin at kathryn@acespace.org or Mawiyah Patten at mawiyah@acespace.org.