

TurnUp Civics Remote Internship Program Key Information and Curriculum

[GENERAL INTERNSHIP APPLICATION AVAILABLE HERE](#)

Introduction: Since our inception, which was motivated by the crisis of the 2020 pandemic and subsequent elections, we have engaged youth from around the country in our TurnUp remote Internship Program. We provide an experientially based program that **empowers interns to become civically engaged in a responsible way.** We believe that there is a strong relationship between education, inspiration, empowerment, and access that results in youth becoming civically engaged. Young people from around the country have been trained in our multi-month program, and our average rating from all interns has been 4.9 stars.

Mission: For youth to have civic engagement accessible, and their democratic competency fostered. Since youth come at different stages of civic awareness, and as youth they may not be the ones completely in charge of their other responsibilities and schedules, **we focus on accessibility by providing a differentiated learning path, rolling admission, rolling end dates of their choosing, and flexible hours in terms of both number and scheduling, and interns can start the first Monday of every month all year around. This program is offered with no fees and no cost to all who apply.**

About Internship Program Director Dr. Nancy Shapiro: Dr. Nancy Shapiro is the Program Director and co-founder of TurnUp's internship program. She is also a part-time clinical psychologist in private practice working with adults. She has been working in the field of mental health since 1987, in various roles. She has published 2 children's books, one about civics and the other a self-guide. Her education has included a Psy.D. from Antioch New England School.

Summary: Interns develop their civic literacy and democratic competency in a remote yet collaborative setting by participating in civic actions, voter turnout projects, performing targeted outreach, attending the TurnUp Speaker Series, doing civics and issue related research, writing and presenting, and participating in their weekly team meetings where they

share their work and join discussions. All interns are expected to help with existing registration drives at their schools. We support their success in initiating and performing their own registration drives with permission granted from their schools. Upon completion, interns receive a TurnUp Certificate.

We foster youths' professional development, creative potential, leadership ability, and social/emotional development, while emphasizing an increase in self-knowledge and confidence through our unique curriculum.

Dedicated interns are eligible to apply for the Presidential Volunteer Service award and to earn letters of recommendation. .

Interns' Main Responsibility: To become more civically educated, active, and responsible citizens, while helping others who are interested to do the same. In meeting those goals, interns will help TurnUp's mission of building the resilience of democracy through the power of the youth.

Audience: We offer a curriculum that is amenable to the principles of differentiated teaching, adapting process, support, and content accordingly. Our program's ability to have a wide and natural flexibility in all of these areas has enabled us to successfully engage a diverse cohort of 13-25 year olds and as a result, peer to peer learning thrives. **Most of our interns have come in with or have subsequently developed interests in the following areas of study: Civics, Criminal Justice, Government, International Relations, Law, Political Science, Public Health, Public Policy, Social Justice, Social Work, Sociology, and Women and Gender Studies.**

Admission, Accountability, and Exit Processes: Interns submit an application. We offer start dates near the first of every month. All new interns go through an onboarding process where they learn about the history of TurnUp, guidelines for the program, procedures, and what to expect in their time at TurnUp. During the program, each intern is held accountable each week for completing the expectations. There is an accountability system for each responsibility for every intern. After successful completion of the program, each trainee fills out a reflection survey for their own personal growth, a feedback survey, and then they receive a certificate. They may join our alumni groups to continue their learning and to network.

Format: Interns are grouped together on teams of 15-20 peers who are directly supervised by co-leaders who are themselves advanced members of the internship program community. All interns are supervised by our Internship Manager, Assistant Managers, and Internship Director.

Platform: Though this is a remote program, community is one of our strengths. All work, except for the registration drives, can be accomplished on-line through Zoom and Slack. They also have the opportunity to do relational registration drives through social media if the option for conducting a registration drive isn't available. Interns also have the option to attend civic and activism events in person if they so choose.

Advanced Opportunities: Extra-challenges and responsibilities include: advancement into leadership roles and special roles; hosting a speaker event or community event; writing articles to update the community on current issues, or giving a workshop or teaching event to the community, and other individually designed and TurnUp mentored projects.

All interns are given the opportunity to step forward and request the opportunity to work on additional individualized Change Maker projects with support and mentoring from staff.

Curriculum:

Process: The curriculum is delivered in weekly installments and a Weekly Guide is posted explaining the responsibilities and opportunities for that week.

Here is a sample of a Weekly Guide:

 **Media Literacy & Bias Weekly Guide**

Goals: Improve civic knowledge including relevant historical underpinnings; personal development -what is important to them and why; professional skills including time management, communication, collaboration, working independently, reflection, public speaking, writing and social media skills, networking, organizing, and leadership.

Career Focus: TurnUp's curriculum equips students with real-world skills for a wide range of careers. Each educational task serves a clear purpose:

Learn: Learn about how to develop many types of deliverables, like press releases, presentations, and analyses, that are required in many jobs.

Prepare: Prepare students for a job by completing work similar to those in full-time jobs.

Show: The high quality work students create at TurnUp can be used for required work samples in the job interview process and as a portfolio to strengthen job applications.

Overview:

A. Non-experiential, including one or more of the following:

Research, reflection, writing, presenting, creating infographics, or creating other forms of social media.

B. Experiential learning. Registering voters, GOTV activities, phone banking, text banking, becoming civically engaged locally, public speaking, networking

C. All Interns are trained to create, run, or help with existing **traditional registration drives** at their schools and communities. They are also trained to do **relational registration drives**. Interns receive resources and support to register their peers.

D. Curriculum Samples

Research, reflection, writing, creating presentations, infographics of other media,

Policy Exploration

Advocacy letter writing to a legislator

Creating a media kit

Data analysis

Writing an op-ed

Court case analysis

Ballot initiative creation

Stakeholder mapping

Congressional hearings

Poll creation
Proposal development
Media literacy- bias detection
Registering voters

Further Information:

- **[Detailed Presentation About Program for College Professors + Staff Available Here](#)**
- **[Detailed Presentation About Program for High School Teachers + Counselors + Staff Available Here](#)**

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