Director of Institutional Relationships (Independent Contractor)
Northern Chumash Tribal Council
Sanctuary designation campaign

Background and Position Description

The Northern Chumash Tribal Council (NCTC) is seeking to hire a Director of Institutional Relationships for their Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary (CHNMS) designation campaign. The proposed CHNMS is partway through National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration’s (NOAA) sanctuary designation process, which is expected to complete in early 2024. NCTC nominated the sanctuary in 2015 – the first tribally nominated sanctuary in the United States – and NOAA began the formal designation process in November 2021.

Working under the direction of the NCTC Chair, the Director of Institutional Relationships is responsible for organizing and leading the sanctuary designation campaign team, including strategy development & implementation, public affairs and communications, and relationship maintenance and partnership building with government agencies, funders, organizational partners, elected officials, and community supporters.

Position: Director of Institutional Relationships (Independent Contractor)

Location: Work from home; candidate must be located within San Luis Obispo County or Santa Barbara County.

Compensation & Duration:
- Range $30-40/hr or depending on experience.
- Estimated need of 20-30 hours a week, now through the duration of the sanctuary designation process (expected completion early 2024).
- Ideal start date September 2022 or sooner.

Essential Duties and Responsibilities:

Leadership and Organization Management
- Oversee sanctuary designation campaign team, including NCTC staff, contractors, and volunteers.
- Coordinate operational efforts with coalition partners.
- Maintain sanctuary supporter database (currently in NationBuilder).
- Support Chair with administrative tasks including budget and payroll.
- Support NCTC board with operational tasks, as needed.
- Assist with other NCTC advocacy efforts, as needed.

Strategy and Communications
- Maintain and implement designation campaign strategy, including ongoing paid marketing (print, digital, TV/radio, etc.)
- Draft and distribute press releases, monthly communications with grant funders, and regular email newsletters (currently in NationBuilder).
● Support other team communication needs, including website content, social media, merchandise and promotional materials, speeches, etc.
● Manage public affairs, such as media and interview requests.

Experience & Qualifications:
● Prior work experience in a position involving similar responsibilities, which may but not necessarily include, legislative advocacy/administration, nonprofit leadership, environmental advocacy, or political/campaign management.
● Self-motivated and a go-getter - while a significant amount of this position is collaborative in nature, most work is completed independently.
● A history of strong collaboration, teamwork, and building strategic relationships.
● A commitment to diversity and inclusion, marine conservation, as well as racial and environmental justice.
● An ability to work effectively in a remote capacity.
● Comfort/familiarity with modern office technologies, such as Zoom, Google Drive, Office 365, Canva, etc.
● Basic graphic design skills for project management.

To apply, please send a resume and cover letter to info@northernchumash.org

For questions about the position, please contact Violet Sage Walker, NCTC Chairwoman at (805) 356-6149.

Learn more about the Northern Chumash Tribal Council and their sanctuary designation campaign by visiting northernchumash.org or chumashsanctuary.org.

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