

Ohio Citizen Action:

Life as a Community Organizer

INTRODUCTION

Since the summer of 2016 and beyond, I have been working for Ohio Citizen Action (OCA). Ohio Citizen Action is a 501(c4) that influences environmental, social justice, and consumer rights policy throughout the state of Ohio.

OCA's Mission Statement

Ohio Citizen Action mobilizes people to advocate for public interests. In person, by phone, and online we engage people in actions that protect public health, improve environmental quality, and benefit consumers. Our campaigns connect Ohioans and build a movement to protect democracy and create a sustainable future

As a community organizer you will...

- Bring important environmental issues to the attention of the general public
- Engage communities in active democracy
- Educate yourself and others about environmental issues facing the modern world at home and abroad.
- Knock on doors, lots of them!

Contribute to a Grassroots Movement



Finding OCA and Applying...

Finding OCA is simple. We are actively accepting enthusiastic new hires. After scouring the internet for all of thirty seconds, I was able to find Ohio Citizen Action. After a brief informational interview and a day observing in the field, new hires train with an experienced staff including the canvass director, field managers, and fellow interns.

Fighting for What's Right



Building a career...

Ohio Citizen Action provides its employees with opportunities to both advance within the organization and to network with like-minded individuals throughout the country. Managed under the umbrella of the Hudson Bay Company, OCA is able to connect its employees and interns with a diverse and passionate group of professionals who, like those working for OCA, seek to make the world a better place. These relationships- friendships, really- serve not only to increase one's competence within the organization but also to catapult one's career as an activist further. As someone hoping to continue a career in activism- whether through the nonprofit sector or the public sector- my experience with OCA has helped to foster strong leadership and communication skills.

If you obtain the position...

- Listen. You have the privilege of working with people that have been doing this work for years. They know what you go through as an organizer and they know how to help you improve.
- Do your best. By making a conscious effort to learn and get better, you will find success.
- Don't get discouraged. Communicating with other humans is challenging, especially when they disagree with you. It's okay if you can't get everyone you talk to involved.
- Don't forget why you started in the first place. As day-to-day becomes routine, don't forget the larger picture. You are fighting to change the world.

If I could change one thing...

I would more actively involve the canvassers/ field staff in the lobbying process. After spending day after day in neighborhoods fighting for very important issues, having face time with legislators and decision makers would be a great motivator to continue my hard work.

CONCLUSIONS

Ohio Citizen Action is a great way for .young professionals to build their resume and career. The organization mostly promotes from within, so there is a future here for anyone dedicated to making an impact.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

- 1 English, M. (ed.). Ohio Citizen Action. Retrieved from Ohio Citizen Action Website: ohiocitizen.org

Canvasser's Conference, 2016



In Autumn community organizers all across the country gather in Kentucky to learn, collaborate, and share ideas with one another.



While canvassing to end the freeze on Governor Strickland's Renewable Portfolio Standards, OCA finds the arbiter himself.

