



Title: Organic community event intern
Classification: Internship
Date: September - December 2024 (16 weeks)
Report To: Operations Director
Location: Remote, though because the successful candidate will be encouraged to take part in the National Organic Standards Board (NOSB) meeting, NOC Pre-NOSB meeting, and TOPP National Meeting in person in Portland, OR, October 20 - 24, 2024, we encourage students in the area to apply.

Position Summary

The internship focuses on supporting the thoughtful and engaging implementation of NOC's Pre-NOSB Meeting (October 21, 2024) and National TOPP Meeting (October 23, 2024) in Portland, Oregon. The intern will also be responsible for developing materials (blog posts, social media) about the meeting ahead of, and after the meeting. The meetings are a great opportunity for networking and getting introduced to a wide spectrum of the organic industry.

Black, Indigenous, and people of color (BIPOC) are encouraged to apply for this internship. This position reports to the Operations Director.

About NOC / Background

The National Organic Coalition (NOC) is a national alliance of organizations working to provide a "Washington voice" for farmers, ranchers, environmentalists, consumers and others who care about organic agriculture. NOC seeks to advance organic food and agriculture and ensure a united voice for organic integrity, which means strong, enforceable, and continuously improved standards. NOC provides information and educational opportunities about the multiple health, environmental, and economic benefits that organic agriculture provides. The coalition works to assure that policies are fair, equitable, and encourage diversity of participation and access.

The coalition operates by consensus, so issues we bring forward have been vetted across stakeholder groups within the organic community. NOC's legislative focus is on the Farm Bill and annual appropriations legislation. In addition, we work with the U.S. Department of Agriculture and with the National Organic Standards Board (NOSB) to protect the organic standards and advocate for a level playing field.

The Organic Foods Production Act established the [National Organic Standards Board](#) (NOSB), a citizen stakeholder board with 15 members. This board has statutory authority over what types of



fertilizers, pesticides, and other inputs could be used in organic production. The NOSB operates in the public arena, ensures transparency, and insulates organic from political pressures exerted by special interest groups.

The NOSB [meets twice a year](#) and invites public stakeholders to provide written and oral comments. They deliberate on all of this public input and then advise the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture on a wide variety of topics related to organic standards, including National List materials. In reality, there is no place in our food system that is more transparent than in organic production, and the role of the NOSB is central to that transparency. [Learn more about the NOSB.](#)

Each spring and fall, NOC organizes an in-person “[Pre-NOSB meeting](#)” ahead of the National Organic Standards Board meeting. This meeting provides a space for information-sharing and dialogue and is open to all organic community members. NOC also organizes two national meetings each year for participants in USDA’s recently launched [Transition to Organic Partnership Program](#) to foster collaboration and best practices.

Areas of Responsibility

- **National Organic Standards Board (NOSB) engagement**
 - Opportunity to sit in on NOC’s NOSB Committee Calls, where NOC members discuss the comments the coalition will submit to the NOSB.
 - Opportunity to give oral comments to the NOSB on an agreed upon topic ahead of the Fall 2024 NOSB Meeting.
- **Event planning:**
 - Assist with meeting planning, including registration management, organize catering, developing materials, etc.
 - Assist with farmer panelist engagement ahead of and during the meeting.
- **Event management:**
 - Support the events’ successful implementation.
 - Participate in note-taking, and taking pictures of the meetings.
 - If interested, potential opportunity to facilitate a roundtable or panel discussion at the meetings.
- **Event debrief:**
 - Synthesize evaluation feedback forms.
 - Develop resources (blog posts (2) , social media materials, success story (1)) about the meetings.
 - If interested, participated and/or present on a “Portland NOSB meeting debrief webinar” for NOC Members and Network Affiliates.

Outcomes



As a result of this internship, the intern will gain skills and experience in event planning and management, learn about the organic regulations process, develop written materials and resources that can be used as references, and make important connections to a wide range of folks in the organic community.

Skills & Qualifications

- Interest in organic agriculture and the USDA National Organic Program
- Attention to detail
- Strong written and oral communication skills
- Project management
- Proficiency in Google suite and experience with zoom platform is a plus
- Collaborative working style
- Available to travel to an in person meeting October 20 through October 24, 2024.

Compensation & Benefits

Pay is \$15 per hour for undergraduate interns and \$18 for graduate interns, not to exceed a total of \$2,250/undergraduate or \$2,700/graduate per semester. Interns are not eligible for benefits. This internship is remote, so a reliable internet connection is required.

Travel expenses to Portland, Oregon will be covered (flight, hotel, meals and incidentals) as part of the internship experience.

To apply, please fill out this [application form](#). Applications will be accepted until the position is filled.