

# United Mountain Defense

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## United Mountain Defense Volunteer Projects

United Mountain Defense (UMD) is an all volunteer organization dedicated to protecting Tennessee's environment and communities and halting the destructive practices of mountaintop removal and our campaigns are only possible because of the day-to-day efforts of volunteers like you. Our work primarily occurs in coal impacted communities in Tennessee and we engage in scientific data collection, public education, community organizing, and data collection and analysis from federal and state agencies. We are part of a larger grassroots campaign called Mountain Justice.

Volunteers are needed to help with a variety of tasks and project.

**Interns** are tasked with completion of a special project or participate in the day-to-day operations of a campaign. Although there is no stipend provided for internships, United Mountain Defense can often cover the cost of travel and supplies. Oftentimes, students can earn academic credit while completing an internship with us. At the completion of the internship, the intern will receive a complimentary year's membership to UMD. A letter of recommendation is available upon request.

Please fill out the volunteer application found on the website to get started making a difference today.

The projects ideas outlined below are possibilities for volunteer work or for internship experiences. Visit our website for information about our summer internship program. Contact us for more information

United Mountain Defense Volunteer House

Phone: 865 689-2778

Email: [umdvolunteerhouse@yahoo.com](mailto:umdvolunteerhouse@yahoo.com)

Website

[www.unitedmountaindefense.org](http://www.unitedmountaindefense.org)

[www.mountainjustice.org](http://www.mountainjustice.org)

## **Scientific Monitoring and Data Collecting / Field Work**

### **AIR QUALITY MONITORING**

United Mountain Defense has launched an air monitoring program with the Global Community Monitor in an effort to hold TVA and the regulatory agencies responsible for protecting the health of the communities surrounding the TVA coal ash disaster. We need help deploying our two 2.5 micron fine particulate monitors. We also need help providing trainings for local residents so that they can use the monitors. We also want to take this air monitoring program across Appalachia to other coal impacted communities and shut down the coal industry with science.

### **AQUATIC SCIENCE**

We need help with our chemical, biological and visual stream assessment water monitoring program. We need help generating the baseline data for pre mined streams. This involves gathering field samples and logging data. We write site specific statements about water quality for public hearings, regulatory agencies, and newspapers.

#### **Listening Projects**

Do you like cultural anthropology, sociology or do you have exceptional people skills. Can you dress up and engage coal impacted community members in a door to door format. We need volunteers to conducting our Listening Projects where you go door to door using active listening to gauge coal field resident's community and mining concerns. We need folks to revisit supporters we have met through past Listening Projects. Training is provided and travel to coal impacted communities is required. We would also like to evolve listening projects into a recorded oral history project and we need motivated independent volunteers to spearhead this project.

### **MYCOLOGY**

We need help with our mycoremediation startup project. It is a 100 acre recovering coal mine site/outdoor ridgeline classroom located in Eagan, TN. We need help collecting and identifying existing mushroom species, culturing, spawning, and mycoremediating with local species in the manner of Paul Stamets.

### **SCOUTING**

Are you the outdoorsy type who likes to hike, camp and explore. Are you a master of Orienteering? We need volunteer to travel to nearby mine sites and scout and document the on the ground conditions.

## **Outreach and Education**

We can provide you with UMD newspapers and master copies of information sheets which you can copy to your heart's content to use in any of the following ways:

### **OUTREACH AND EDUCATION TABLE**

Help create awareness of the problems facing our world -- including mountaintop removal and the whole death cycle of coal. We provide the materials; you set up a decorative display at an already-arranged event or find a location in your where you can set up an information table. Hand out information and talk to people about United Mountain Defense and Mountain Justice - focus on getting new volunteers and members to join!

### **HOLD A BENEFIT FOR UNITED MOUNTAIN DEFENSE**

Find a local pub, restaurant, or a community space and use your creative energies to put together a small concert or theme event for the benefit of your favorite charity (UMD!). If you know musicians or entertainers (comedians, magicians, or other performers) you can easily put together a fun night. You could collect a door charge for UMD and have an information table inside the event. Also, think about fundraisers such as a spaghetti dinner, bake sales, car wash or other create event to raise awareness about the destruction of mountaintop removal coal mining.

### **HAVE A UNITED MOUNTAIN DEFENSE PARTY**

Invite everyone you know to join you for a House Party featuring videos about mountaintop removal! Plan ahead: Get newspapers from UMD, information sheets and buy or borrow a videotape to show on your VCR. (If you have a birthday to celebrate, you could ask for donations in lieu of gifts...)

### **DISTRIBUTE INFORMATION**

Copy and distribute United Mountain Defense info to anyone and everyone that may be interested in helping to protect Tennessee's environment and communities.. Please stress to them that a donation of any kind would be very helpful, and that for donations of US\$25.00 or more they will receive our newspapers once a year.

### **CULTIVATE PUBLIC AWARENESS**

Organize and participate in protests/demonstrations against MTR! Organize a rally at a public place or government building to display signs, get petitions signed and get the word out! Use your creativity to reach out to the public - create billboards and/or signs to educate the public! Make sure your events follow our nonviolent guidelines. \_

### **DISTRIBUTE THE TENNESSEE MOUNTAIN DEFENDER NEWSPAPER**

Help distribute our annual newspaper, the Tennessee Mountain Defender! We need volunteers to distribute the newspaper in Knoxville, and surrounding counties and cities throughout Tennessee.

## **Writing, Research and Journalism Projects**

### **TENNESSEE MOUNTAIN DEFENSE NEWSPAPER**

We need volunteers to write for our newspaper, the Tennessee Mountain Defense which is published once a year. We also volunteers experienced in the layout design who can work in InDesign as well as editors, and submissions of original art, songs, and poetry.

### **CULTIVATE MEDIA AWARENESS**

In the never-ending quest to wake up and shake up people into realizing that coal is dirty, dangerous and destructive, it helps to get as much media coverage as possible. Send a letter or call your local TV and radio stations, newspapers and magazines telling them about the work that UMD has been doing. Aside from being a story with a good cause, the footage and photographs are dynamic and exciting, and make for a great show or article. You can give the media our main telephone numbers (865 689-2778) and we will be happy to provide them with images or video.

### **GENERATING OUTREACH AND EDUCATION MATERIALS**

We need individual to make creative outreach materials, fact sheets, displays, pamphlets posters, fliers, etc. We need new website content on the death cycle of coal, original stories, poetry and more.

### **GRANT WRITING**

We need grant writers to research foundations and grant leads and to work with us to complete grant applications and write grant proposals.

### **RESEARCH**

Are you interested in history, current events, energy issues, or legal projects? We need help volunteers to research the history of coal mining in TN and Appalachia and to generate related articles. We want people to remember the battles of Coal Creek TN where the miners won by turning back the National Guard twice and helping end the convict mining labor system. We also have numerous research projects that involve coal burning power plants, the TVA disaster, coal waste storage, and MTR. See our Challenging Coal Permits for more information about legal research projects.

## **Art and Creative Projects**

We need graphic artist, musicians, theatrical performers, and creative individuals for a variety of projects.

### **ART AND GRAPHIC DESIGN**

We need volunteer to create original art work for stickers, fliers, t-shirts, buttons, posters, banners, and more. We also need help with layout design for the Tennessee Mountain Defender newspaper.

### **MUSIC**

We need help creating songs about the mountains and coalfield communities to be sung around our campfires. We would like to post your songs on our website and create a CD as a fundraiser. We would like help setting up concert benefits at local music venues. We also need the help of musicians at special events and rallies.

### **OUTREACH AND EDUCATION MATERIALS**

Outreach and education can benefit greatly from the touch of those who are visually talented. From advertising events to designing educational materials, an eye for design can work wonders. We also welcome any screen printing experience. Art shows also make great education benefit.

### **PHOTOGRAPHY**

We need volunteers to take pictures in the field and at special events and to post them to a photos hosting site to share with our supporters and on the website.

### **PERFORMERS**

We need people with special performances skills to help with special events. Do you juggle, stilt walk, are you a magician, maybe you are a storyteller or a poet, or have a special performance skill you like to show off. We need volunteer to perform at special events.

### **THEATRE**

We need help creating original stories about mountain top removal coal mining and converting them into theatre productions. We would also like to create, document, and film scripted/ unscripted street theatre as protest to be performed at various locations in Knoxville.

### **VIDEOGRAPHERS**

We need volunteers to video tape in the field and at special events. We also need video editors and creative individuals to make educational videos. We also need help maintaining our video library.

## **Technology Projects**

### **SOCIAL NETWORKING**

We need volunteers to manage the Myspace website and Facebook accounts. This would include recruiting and adding new friends sending out relevant news articles, setting up special event pages and communicating with “friends” of UMD.

### **WEBSITE**

We need a web savvy volunteer to help keep the website updated and to trouble shoot problems.

### **GIS/ GPS**

We need volunteers to lead GPS trainings. We also need experienced volunteers to create maps using Arch GIS and to offer GIS training.

### **VIDEOGRAPHERS**

We need volunteers to video tape in the field and at special events. We also need video editors and creative individuals to make educational videos. We also need help maintaining our video library.

## **Short Periods of Time and Project Specific**

### **DISTRIBUTE THE TENNESSEE MOUNTAIN DEFENDER NEWSPAPER**

Help distribute our annual newspaper, the Tennessee Mountain Defender! We need volunteers to distribute the newspaper in Knoxville, and surrounding counties and cities throughout Tennessee.

### **DISTRIBUTION OF OUTREACH AND EDUCATION MATERIALS**

We need volunteers to post fliers around Knoxville to promote special events and meetings.

### **ATTEND AN EVENT**

Out events, benefits, dance parties, protests, direct actions, dinners, and concerts are only successful when we get lots of people to turn out. Please support UMD by attending our events.

### **ORGANIZE AN EVENT**

We need volunteers to organize a range of events such as benefits, education events, as well as protests, rallies, marches and direct actions. There are many ways to plug into this type of organizing.

### **ATTEND A SIGN MAKING PARTY**

We need new messaging and creative signs for almost every new event. We host sign making parties that are fun and provide a creative outlet for getting involved.

## **Challenging Coal Permits**

We need volunteer to help us with our exhausting administrative remedies tactic. This would include working on one or more of the following tasks:

### **PARTICIPATE IN THE PUBLIC PROCESS**

Requesting public hearings when needed

Attending and recruiting others to attend public hearings

Collecting site specific data for public hearing on mine site visits

Collecting data in the field for a public hearing (see the field work section)

Submitting written comments for new or renewal surface mine permits

### **LEGAL WORK**

We need lawyers and law students who are familiar with or willing to learn the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act (SMCRA), Clean Water Act, Clean Air Act, and CERCLA . We need volunteers to help us learn how citizens can use the law to put pressure on the coal industry and to participate in the public process to the greatest extent. We also want to create a "Citizen's Guide to Administrative Hearings" so that we can start challenging every mining permit in front of an administrative judge once they are granted.

## **Office Work**

Volunteer to help with office work from your home or at the UMD office located at our volunteer house. We need help with data entry, sending thank you letters and with tasks such as making copies, collating and assembling packets.

## **Meetings and Regional Trainings**

### **ATTEND A UMD MEETING**

Attend weekly UMD meetings in Knoxville. We meet each Tuesday at 7:00p.m. at Laurel High School at 1539 Laurel Avenue, Knoxville, TN 37916. Join us at a meeting to find out more about how to plug into community organizing, scientific data collection and direct action in East Tennessee.

### **ATTEND A MOUNTAIN JUSTICE MEETING**

Attend monthly regional Mountain Justice meetings. Meetings rotate between TN, KY, VA, WV, and NC. Contact us for rideshare information.

### **ATTEND A MOUNTAIN JUSTICE TRAINING CAMP.**

Mountain Justice Spring Break Camp

Summer camp

Fall Summit

[www.mountainjustice.org](http://www.mountainjustice.org)

[www.mjsb.org](http://www.mjsb.org)

