

Fellows Program

Overview

SVP hopes to widen and strengthen our connection to our community by offering opportunities to high-energy, talented people who support the SVP mission, can gain significant personal experience from their involvement, but who can't otherwise meet the annual financial contribution. Fellowships fit our mission to develop philanthropy, improve our work with investees, and benefit our community.

Fellowships are one-year renewable relationships. Fellowship opportunities are public, with a competitive application and interview process on a rolling schedule. The number of fellowships depends on sponsoring partners. A fellowship involves required participation, but not a financial commitment to SVP, however a small contribution is suggested. We see a fellowship as a stepping stone to potential partnership.

Fellows participate in as many SVP activities as they wish. They agree to a minimum five hours a month including some required activities and a variety of optional activities depending on interests. The fellowship does not cover fees to attend conferences and events. Greeters from the SVP partnership welcome Fellows and check in with them throughout the year.

Opportunities

Fellows and scholarship recipients will be actively involved in SVP and may participate in as many SVP activities as they wish. Certain participation is required of Fellows as indicated below.

1. Serve on Investment Team (required for fellows)

A team of 10-20 partners meets during a five-month cycle to select SVP's next investee (grantee). Gain understanding of issue areas, the nonprofit sector, and the local nonprofit landscape. Evaluate grant proposals and nonprofits and make group-funding decisions. Work individually, in sub-teams and with entire committee.

2. Serve on an internal working group (required for fellows)

SVP relies on volunteer working groups to help get our work done. These include Ambassadors (Recruiting), Partner Engagement, planning education events, planning the BigBANG! conference sparking social innovation (Oct 28, 2011), and other initiatives.

3. Provide Volunteer Consulting (depending on skills needed)

SVP annually provides over 200 hours of volunteer consulting to our investees in:

- Strategy and planning
- Management consulting
- Human resources
- Information technology
- Financial management
- Legal counsel
- Marketing, PR, communications
- Leadership development
- Mentoring and tutoring

4. Participate in Workshops and Meetings (4 per year required for fellows)

SVP offers 12+ workshops each year and learning on a variety of topics integrated into all of our meetings and activities:

- Community issues
- Grant making
- Strategic giving
- Volunteering
- Financial planning and giving
- Values and motivations in philanthropy
- Nonprofit sector
- Honing capacity building skill

5. Attend the SVP International Conference if possible.

Meet and learn from partners from SVP's 26 affiliates from the US, Canada, and Tokyo and nationally acclaimed speakers at the annual conference.

Benefits

- Use professional skills to benefit community
- Opportunity to develop leadership skills or mentor them in others
- Peer-to-peer learning
- Be part of a community of doers and givers
- Deep involvement in the community
- Personal development and stretching
- Achieve joint goal of making our community stronger

Criteria to Apply

- You have an historical or emerging desire to make a significant contribution to your community. You see yourself continuing and growing that commitment in the years ahead.
- You will add diverse perspectives and experiences to the partnership.
- You would not otherwise have the financial means to make the annual contribution (\$2,500 for people under 40 years old; \$5,000 for partners 40+ years of age).
- You are at least 21 years of age.

Fellows Application Process

Please submit a resume and answers to the following questions, limited to two pages.

1. Why do you want to be a part of SVP? What do you hope to learn?
2. What will you bring to SVP? What will other partners learn from you?
3. In what ways could you add value to a volunteer team supporting the capacity of a local nonprofit? (For example, expertise in volunteer management, marketing, accounting, strategic planning, community organizing, etc.)
4. What volunteer, community and civic engagement experience have you had? What have you learned from it?
5. What are your core values and the values of those groups of which you are a part?
6. Are you able to commit at least five hours per month during your fellowship?

Please include two references with your application.

An internal committee will review applications and interview finalists. Fellows will submit a two-page summary of their experience and recommendations at the end of their fellowship.

We appreciate your interest in CSVP. Please contact Linda Springer if you have any questions.

Best regards,

Linda Springer
Executive Director