Photo from 5280 Magazine article about New Era's young voter engagement programs.
Denver, CO

New Wave
Colorado's political landscape just got a whole lot younger.

If New Era Colorado's bus looks like a cross between a school bus and offbeat candidate debates (including an American Idol--reuters' rights and election

Democracy Done Right.

New Era Colorado Foundation is an innovative vehicle for hands-on democracy. We engage, educate, and train a new generation of active citizens and young leaders in Colorado.

We provide the resources and tools for young people to gain collective power in the political process. We're grassroots. We're nonpartisan. And we're all about empowering our generation to lead Colorado not left, not right, but forward. We do it all with one constant: making politics fun again. And yes, it's often on a bus.

The Summer Democracy Fellowship

New Era Colorado's Democracy Fellows program is an intensive, nine week-long summer bootcamp that trains the next generation of progressive young leaders to create change in their communities. Fellows work to build a more hands-on democracy, developing their leadership skills while learning and applying the principles of grassroots organizing and political advocacy.

The program's curriculum is a combination of classroom-setting instruction and on-the-ground grassroots work. During each morning's classroom session, fellows learn from the best in their fields, including current and former legislators, campaign managers, media strategists, and local political leaders. Fellows spend the afternoons in groups working on issue campaigns, which could include building support for anything from comprehensive immigration reform to stronger fracking regulations that protect public health.

In short, Democracy Fellows is a training program designed to act as a springboard for young leaders to enter the life of public service in Colorado. Fellows will leave the program with the tools and skills to advocate for the issues they are passionate about, organize others to take action, and lead in their communities.
PROGRAM GOALS:
1. **Leaders for the long-term.** Gain invaluable leadership skills, and flex those new muscles up and down Colorado’s Front Range...New Era style.
2. **Engagement that matters.** Conduct on-the-ground grassroots work to impact top-level policies and make a lasting impact on Colorado’s political landscape.
3. **Democracy for the win.** Do the heavy lifting to create a more hands-on democracy that works for everyone.

WE’RE LOOKING FOR YOU:
*This program is for hardworking young folks, college students, and recent grads. We look for the following:*
- Passion for civic engagement, democracy, and politics
- A high energy and contagiously fun(ny) personality
- Proven and highly effective organizational and written/oral communication skills
- A strong affinity for thinking outside of the box
- A self-starter that shows strong initiative and can work independently or in teams
- Ability to work within diverse and underrepresented communities
- Willingness to work non-traditional work hours (nights and weekends)
- Ability to work efficiently under tight deadlines

SNAPSHOT: Sample week

**Wednesday, July 23rd**
- 1-3pm Classroom sessions: Networking 101, Train the trainers: empowering volunteers to do voter registration
- 3-4:30pm Field team planning
- 4:30-6pm Make recruitment calls to volunteers
- 6-7:30pm BBQ with New Era board members

**Thursday, July 24th**
- 1pm Classroom session: Securing earned media
- 2-3pm Fellow-facilitated discussion: re-imagining elections
- 4-5pm Field team work
- 7-10pm Team 1 voter registration at the Underground Music Showcase

**Friday, July 25th**
- 2-3pm Classroom session: State of education funding
- 3-4pm Prep for the weekend
- 7-10pm Team 3 voter registration at the Underground Music Showcase

**Saturday, July 26th**
- 10am-2pm: Team 1 voter registration at Colorado Springs Pride Festival
- 12-3:30pm Teams 2 & 3 voter registration at the Underground Music Showcase

**Sunday, July 27th**
- 10am-2pm Team 3 voter registration at Colorado Springs Pride Festival
- 12-4pm Teams 1 & 2 voter registration at the Underground Music Showcase

**Monday, July 28th**
OFF

**Tuesday, July 29th**
- 2-4pm All teams field meeting & public speaking presentations
- 4-5pm City of Boulder community trends
- 5-6pm Online organizing 101
- 6:30-8pm Attend Boulder City Council meeting
FAQ’s

How long is the program? It runs from June 9th to August 8th, 2014.

How much does it cost? It doesn’t. The program costs approximately $5,000 per Fellow, but we cover the cost to make sure that finances aren’t a barrier to you getting your democracy on.

But do I get paid? Depends: need-based stipends are available on a case-by-case basis, averaging between $500-$1,200. We send the stipend application form to applicants who are selected for an interview.

How many fellows are in the program? Between 14-17.

Where am I going to sleep? Those who live outside of the Denver metro area may be eligible for a homestay placement based on need. Those who are from Denver who want to avoid their parents may sleep in our cozy second floor bathtub whenever.

Who does the Fellowship? Young folks (from Colorado & from across the country) who are ridiculously enthusiastic about grassroots politics, democracy, and creating change. That’s it.

How many hours does it require? The Fellowship is full-time plus (up to 50 hours per week), and requires a willingness to work nontraditional hours, including nights and some weekends.

I’m from out of town. Is Denver the coolest city this side of the Atlantic to spend my summer in? Why yes, yes it is.

HOW TO APPLY:

Get your hands on an application at www.NewEraColorado.org/DemocracyFellows

Early decision deadline: March 25th
Final deadline: April 25th

Applications are accepted on a rolling basis until the deadline. We strongly encourage you to apply early for a better chance of being accepted.