



Ark Valley Voice Internship Program
Re: Completion of Winter 2020 Internship
Report: Jan. 28, 2021

Background:

Ark Valley voice established its internship program soon after we launched in March 2018. The purpose of internships is to establish a training ground for ethical journalism, providing a foothold for new journalists to enter the field, gaining valuable, real-world experience while becoming contributing member of the AVV news team.

Interns are trained in news gathering, fact verification, responsible reporting, Associated Press news style, and the time expediency of digital news coverage. All are trained in uploading stories to the press room for copy editing. Each intern is given a coverage area, and is included in the weekly AVV Crew meetings. Interns meet every few weeks directly with the Managing Editor for one-on-one training based upon observed improvement areas.

Internship perspective:

Through Jan. 2021, Ark Valley Voice has had four interns; all have been post college; three coming with journalism or mass media degrees, one a general liberal arts degree. All three moved from an internship into part time or full time employment at Ark Valley Voice, and our last intern Brooke Gilmore, remains a full time employee (one went back to grad school in Michigan, the other moved to Richmond Virginia, where her AVV experience is proving a worthy credential.)

Current Intern:

Our current intern Hannah Harn completed her internship as of last Friday, and given her performance, will be moving into a part time 15 hr/week role next week (we'd like to add more hours, but she has a contract to complete with the Lake County School District)

Per the grant parameters, Hannah has primarily been focused on stories that cover the impacts of COVID-19 on the community, and she has contributed several stories to the "COVID: On Edge" series of the Colorado Media Collaborative, of which AVV is a member.

Internship Funding:

AVV Managing editor Jan Wondra wrote for a grant from the Chaffee County Community Foundation to underwrite this AVV winter internship program. Because the CCCF can fund programs like this through other non-profits, so we wrote the grant to flow through the Truth Has a Voice Foundation. We requested \$1680 (\$14/10 hrs. week/12 weeks), and CCCF wrote the grant for \$1,500. Per this recap, AVV requests reimbursement of that amount, based on the grant parameters, and can provide an invoice upon request.

Future Internships:

With a successful pattern of internships, AVV intends to continue the program. We'd like to add a spring intern, and this time would like to activate the second phase of our internship work, which moves into the high schools. Next, we'd like to select a promising student from Salida High School, then by summer, when Hannah will not be available due to a prior commitment, we'd like to identify a college journalism student for a summer internship. We've written a grant request to the Colorado Media Collaborative, but so far that group has only funded Front Range internships.