



APPLICATION INFORMATION: HOW TO APPLY
THE 7TH ANNUAL
NEW YORK CITY MINORITY YOUTH ENVIRONMENTAL TRAINING INSTITUTE
An Environmental STEM Initiative
“7 Days of Learning, A Lifetime of Experience”
June 27—July 3, 2012, New York, NY

The **National Hispanic Environmental Council (NHEC)** is accepting applications from **New York tri-state area teens, aged 16—18**, to attend its upcoming 7th annual “New York City Minority Youth Environmental Training Institute”. The Institute is an intensive, science-based, residential, and highly educational 7 day environmental education and environmental career program to be held June 27-July 3, 2012 at a variety of parks, wildlife refuges, and other environmental sites in the NY City area.

Through these site visits and field studies (i.e. doing air, water, soil testing and more) plus the Environmental STEM curriculum we use, students will receive an in-depth environmental learning experience. The Institute is being funded by the U.S. Forest Service, Eastern Region and the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), in conjunction with NHEC.

The following will help students prepare their application. For more details information on the Institute please read the “Fact Sheet” and other materials.

If you are selected, NHEC will provide a full scholarship that will cover all your major costs to attend, including housing, all meals, educational materials, and on-site equipment. There is no fee to apply and only a \$15 registration fee if you are selected. The Institute is open to all youth aged 16—18, and all are welcome to apply. However, Latino youth are especially urged to apply, given the severe under-representation of Latinos in environmental fields.

- 1. Be a serious student** with proven experience in the environment, or can demonstrate to us that you have a deep, genuine interest in the environment.
- 2. Read and complete all Forms**, especially the Application Form. You must mail us all required forms and attachments for your application to be reviewed. Incomplete applications cannot be evaluated by NHEC. You can obtain all necessary Forms by going to the NHEC website at www.nheec.org However, you cannot apply on-line; you must mail us your completed application package.
- 3. Write an essay** (2 pages max). This essay will be particularly important in selecting students for the Institute. See below for details on what to address in your essay.
- 4. Include a copy of your latest transcript** or school report card showing your classes and grades, including your GPA. If obtaining an official transcript will be difficult or time-consuming, NHEC will accept an unofficial one.
- 5. Apply as soon as possible**, as early applicants have a better chance of acceptance.

WHAT WE ARE LOOKING FOR

NHEC is seeking mature, serious applicants with active experience (past or present) in the environment, and/or are strongly interested in pursuing an environmental or natural resource career in the future (especially if with the U.S. Forest Service or the Natural Resources Conservation Service), the Institute's two sponsors. If you have been actively involved in any kind of environmental program, class, project, or job, either in school or out, you are eligible to apply. **Remember—the more you tell us about your past or present activities in the environment, the greater your chance of selection.**

We are also interested in receiving applications from students who may not have prior experience in an environmental activity, but you are strongly and genuinely interested in learning more about the environment, especially related careers and colleges. **But—you must be able to show us this strong interest – convincingly.** Remember—the Institute is not summer camp. It is a science-based program for students deeply interested in learning more about the environment and related careers, and willing to diligently participate in a challenging program for 7 days. Through your application packet we will be able to determine your interest, intent, and seriousness.

Applicants from the New York tri-state area will be competitively selected for the Institute scholarship, based on their application package and a variety of criteria. This criteria includes (but is not limited to):

1. Students' maturity and seriousness of intentions;
2. Students' academic background and achievements, including a minimum 3.0 GPA;
3. Proven experience in some environmental activity, program, class, project, or job, especially if associated with federal environmental agencies;
4. Ability to show a genuine interest in the environment, especially as a future career;
5. Extracurricular and/or community activities that may not be related to the environment, but reflect well upon you as an applicant;
6. Diversity by age, gender, race, ethnicity, geography, environmental experience, and other factors.

WRITING YOUR ESSAY

An essay (2 pages max please) is required with your application. You must describe in your own words your qualifications for and interest in the Institute. **This essay will be especially important in selecting student for the Institute.** DO NOT have your parents write your essay. Trust us—we can tell, and doing this may disqualify you. Your essay must tell us:

1. Your current GPA.
2. Why you want to attend the Institute.
3. Your qualifications. Tell us what kinds of environmental activities, programs, classes, jobs, etc. you have been involved in, past or present. If you are in college, tell us what year you are in and your current and future major.
4. Your future career and/or college goals, most especially if they relate to the environment, and/or if with NRCS or U.S. Forest Service, the Institute sponsors.
5. How can you now and in the future make a difference to our environment?
6. How might your race, ethnicity, gender, and/or culture play a role in helping the environment?
7. Why should we select you to attend the Institute?

MAIL OR FAX YOUR COMPLETED APPLICATION PACKAGE TO:

National Hispanic Environmental Council
Attention: NYC Minority Youth Envir. Institute
106 N. Fayette Street
Alexandria, VA 22314
Phone: 703-683-3956
Fax: 703-256-8288

Questions?: Email Juan Rodriguez, NHEC Programs Coordinator, at jrodriguez@nheec.org