



APPLICATION INFORMATION: HOW TO APPLY

THE 11th ANNUAL

MINORITY YOUTH ENVIRONMENTAL TRAINING INSTITUTE

An Environmental STEM Initiative

“11 Days of Learning, A Lifetime of Experience”

July 20–30, 2011 • Las Vegas, New Mexico

The National Hispanic Environmental Council (NHEC) is accepting applications from top students, aged 16–19 from across the country, to attend its upcoming national “11th Annual Minority Youth Environmental Training Institute”. The Institute is an intensive, science-based, residential, and highly educational 11 day program to be held in Northern New Mexico this July. Through visits to a variety of environmental and natural resource sites like national parks, wildlife refuges, forests and more; “field studies” (i.e. doing air, water, soil testing and more); the Environmental STEM curriculum used; plus using professional-grade environmental science equipment, students will receive an in-depth environmental learning experience. The Institute is being funded by a number of federal environmental agencies; these are: the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. EPA, U.S. Forest Service, and the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service.

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

If you are selected, NHEC will provide a full scholarship that will pay all your major costs to attend, including airfare, housing, all meals, educational materials, and related on-site science equipment. There is no fee to apply, and only a \$25 registration fee (for the entire 11 days) if you are selected. NHEC will waive the \$25 fee for any student who is accepted into the Institute, but is unable to pay the fee due to proven financial hardship. The Institute is open to all students aged 16–19, and all are welcome to apply. Latino youth are especially urged to send applications, given the severe under-representation of Latinos in environmental fields.

TO APPLY, YOU MUST

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 calling NHEC, or by going to the NHEC web page 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 more details on what to address in your essay.

4. **Include a copy of your latest school report card and/or transcript** 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 will have a better chance of acceptance.

Please note: as the Institute is entirely federally funded, only students who are U.S. Citizens or Permanent Legal Residents are eligible to apply and be selected.

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 with our federal 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. But remember—**the more you tell us about your past or present activities in the environment, the greater the chance of being accepted into the Institute.**

We are also interested in receiving applications from youth who may not have any prior experience in an environmental activity, but who 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 for students who are seriously interested in learning more about the environment and related careers and willing to diligently participate in a challenging, intellectually stimulating program for 11 days. Through your application packet we will be able to determine your interest, intent, and seriousness.

SELECTION CRITERIA

As this is a national program, applicants from across the U.S. 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, and especially one of our sponsors;
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 students for the Institute.** DO NOT have your parents write your essay. Trust us—we can tell and doing this may disqualify you. Your essay should 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, research, jobs, etc. you have been involved in past or present, especially if it relates to one of our federal sponsors.
4. Your future career and/or college goals, especially if they relate to the environment.
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: NM Institute
106 N. Fayette Street
Alexandria, VA 22314

Phone: 703-683-3956
FAX 703-256-8288

(if you fax your application you also need to mail it to NHEC as well).

Questions?: email Juan Rodriguez, NHEC Programs Coordinator at <mailto:jrodriguez@nheec.org>

You can also visit our website at www.nheec.org