



NATIONAL HISPANIC ENVIRONMENTAL COUNCIL APPLICATION INFORMATION: HOW TO APPLY

THE 11th ANNUAL NHEC NY ENVIRONMENTAL STEM INSTITUTE

“8 Days of Learning, A Lifetime of Experience”

• June 25 – July 2, 2017 •

HELD AT WAGNER COLLEGE, STATEN ISLAND – AND – AT NATIONAL PARKS, NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGES, AND OTHER SITES IN/AROUND NYC AND LONG ISLAND

The National Hispanic Environmental Council (NHEC) is accepting applications from students, aged 17–21, to attend its upcoming 11th annual “New York Environmental STEM Institute”. The Institute is an intensive, residential, strongly science-based, 8 day environmental education and environmental career program for top STEM students aged 17-21-- competitively selected -- and demonstrably active in the environment.

The NY Institute will be held June 25–July 2, 2017 at Wagner College in Staten Island, as well as a number of city and national parks, wildlife refuges and more in the NYC and Long Island area.

Through these site visits; use of a strong Environmental STEM curriculum; high-level issue presentations; and Environmental Field Studies including air, water, and soil testing, biological assessments, and more; students will receive an in-depth environmental science learning experience. The major sponsor of the NY Institute is the Eastern Region of the U.S. Forest Service (FS), with additional funding/support from the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service and the U.S. EPA.

Further, there is a paid job component to the Institute. The U.S. Forest Service is hiring! Students will be interviewed at the Institute by FS staff and if hired will earn and learn doing conservation work the rest of this summer at a national forest in MO, MN, or MI.

If you are selected NHEC will provide a full scholarship that covers all your major costs to attend, including transportation (airfare), housing, all meals, educational materials, and on-site environmental science equipment and camping gear. There is no fee to apply and only a \$25 registration fee if selected. The Institute is open to all students and all are welcome to apply. However Latino/minority students are especially urged to do so, given the severe underrepresentation of students of color in environmental and conservation STEM fields. Students will be competitively selected based on the criteria described below.

For more details on the NY Institute, please read the “Fact Sheet” and other materials.

The following will help students prepare their application. Successful applicants will:

1. Be a serious student with proven academic and experiential background in the environment, as outlined in the Selection Criteria.

2. Thoroughly read the Fact Sheet 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.nheec1.org
3. Write an essay (2 pages max). This essay is particularly important in selecting students to 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, pending confirmation of your GPA if necessary.
5. Apply as soon as possible, as early applicants have the best chance of acceptance.

WHAT WE ARE LOOKING FOR

NHEC is seeking mature, disciplined students who are passionate about the environment, love science, meet the academic/experiential criteria below, and interested in potentially working for the U.S. Forest Service this summer. As for environmental experiences, it can include participation in an environmental job, or in an environmental program, project, or activity, either in school or out. This participation must be sufficiently relevant and adequately in-depth, as determined by NHEC. Thus -- the more detail you give us about your past or present environmental activities, the greater your chance of selection.

SELECTION CRITERIA

1. Students' maturity and seriousness of intentions;
2. An academic background containing environmental-related coursework, whether in high school and/or college;
3. The student has declared in some environmental or natural resource major, especially in the sciences, or if not yet declared it is obvious the student will do so;
4. A minimum 3.0 GPA;
5. Proven background in some environmental experience, activity or job;
6. Ability to show a strong and genuine interest in an environmental or natural resources field as a future career—especially if in the sciences;
7. Extracurricular and/or community activities;
8. Diversity—by age, gender, race, ethnicity, geography, environmental major, school attending; environmental experiences, and other factors.

ELIGIBILITY

Students from across the U.S. and Puerto Rico are eligible to apply. Students must have a minimum 3.0 GPA. Students must be aged 17–21. This typically means a senior in high school moving on to college this September, or a freshman, sophomore, or junior in college. As this is a federally funded program eligibility is limited to U.S. Citizens and Legal Permanent Residents.

WRITING YOUR ESSAY

An essay is also required, with a maximum length of two pages. You must describe your qualifications for and interest in the Institute. This essay will be especially important in selecting students for the Institute. Your essay must specifically address the following:

1. What is your name and current GPA—please state this in the first paragraph.
2. Why do you want to attend the Institute?
3. Your qualifications. Tell us what kinds of environmental classes, science classes, major, programs, activities, jobs or more you have been involved in, past or present. If in college, tell us which school, what year you are in, and your current and future major.
4. What environmental or natural resource issues interest you the most?
5. Your future career and/or college goals as they relate to the environment, and especially if with the U.S. Forest Service, NRCS, or U.S. EPA, the Institute's sponsors.
6. You must state whether you are interested in and available to work this summer for the Forest Service in the job offered (as described in the Fact Sheet), should FS offer you a job. FS understands students will return to college on different dates this summer, thus they will work with you on the location (the forest) and length of your employment.
7. How can you now and in the future make a difference to our environment?
8. How may your race, ethnicity, gender, and/or culture play a role in helping the environment?
9. Why should we select you to attend the Institute?

MAIL YOUR COMPLETED APPLICATION PACKAGE TO:

National Hispanic Environmental Council

P.O. Box 1003

Springfield, VA 22151

Attention: 2017 NY Institute

NHEC Phone: 703-683-3956

Questions: email Juan Rodriguez, NHEC Programs Coordinator at
jrodriguez@nheec1.org or call 703-861-6064