

National Hispanic Environmental Council



Dear Students, Educators, and Community/Environmental Leaders:

The National Hispanic Environmental Council (NHEC) announces **it is accepting preliminary applications from qualified college students** to attend our **16th annual New Mexico Environmental STEM Institute**, to be held August 5—14, 2018 at the Glorieta Conference Center in Glorieta, NM, and at national forests, national parks, laboratories, and other environmental sites in beautiful Northern New Mexico.

Students are competitively selected from across the U.S. and Puerto Rico per a variety of criteria, including: having a minimum 3.0 GPA; be demonstrably pursuing an environmental or natural resource science major; and possess relevant environmental experiences and academic background.

The main sponsors of the NM Institute are the U.S. Forest Service; the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service; and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. **With funding from these sponsors NHEC covers all costs—airfare, housing, meals, science equipment, and more—for students to attend the 10 day program.**

Students selected will be housed and fed, and coursework/presentations held at the **Glorieta Conference Center, located 18 miles north of Santa Fe, NM**. This is a serene Baptist retreat facility in the forested mountains of NM (note—no religious activities are held in the Institute).

In the NM Institute students conduct formal Environmental Science Field Studies on federal and private lands in the varied ecosystems of New Mexico. Students will also explore some of the most stunning natural areas in America, especially public lands, including the Santa Fe Forest/Wilderness; Bandelier National Monument; the Valles Caldera National Preserve; the red rock landscapes of Abiquiu Lake; and the Rio Chama canyon area.

This is one of 3 Environmental STEM Institutes -- in NY, OR, and NM--that NHEC runs each summer as we work to address STEM underrepresentation and build the next generation of Latino/minority environmental professionals, researchers, and scientists.

Regarding eligibility--this is a federally-funded program open to all students who are U.S. Citizens or Legal Permanent Residents in the 50 states and Puerto Rico.

The NM Institute is an intensive, residential, strongly science-based, hands-on, 10 day long conservation education and conservation career program for top college STEM diversity students, aged 18-22, deeply interested in and actively pursuing an environmental/conservation related major and career in the sciences.

Using our award-winning Environmental STEM curriculum taught by NHEC's skilled instructors, many with Ph.D's, students receive in-depth environmental and conservation presentations on a range of issues/methodologies. There is also a citizen science component to the Institutes.

Students conduct Environmental Field Studies (air, soil, water testing, plant inventories, tree ecology, biological assessments, birding, more) using professional-grade, often high-tech equipment. Students will also visit, learn, and use sophisticated environmental science equipment for data and specimen analyses in environmental laboratories. Working in teams, students collaborate, prepare, and give a Final Presentation on the last day of the Institute, using all the data, observations, and metrics they have collected during the program.

Also participating are volunteer role models--environmental professionals, many from the sciences and many of color. They will be on-site to engage/guide/inspire students, and provide mentorship, to students pursuing environmental/conservation science majors and careers. This "role model" component--in place so students can see faces that look like them who actually do environmental work in the sciences--has been a long-standing, core element of all our Institutes.

NM Institute students will also receive career presentations on a range of federal hiring authorities, like Pathways, Resource Assistant, and more, so students learn how to pursue federal positions. And finally--students will engage with FS, NRCS, and EPA staff and others eager to talk to qualified, science-focused students about career, job, and science opportunities in 2019 and beyond. NHEC is very pleased to state that each year our institutes students are hired for jobs, internships, and more by our federal sponsors and others.

If interested, please answer the following preliminary questions and email NHEC asap (see below). This will give NHEC a quick overview of your eligibility and especially qualifications, and save you and us time and effort.

Please be sure to answer the questions below in the order they are asked:

- 1.--what college or university do you currently attend, or will attend this September?
- 2.--if you will be a freshman in September, what high school did you attend and where?
- 3.--what is (was) your GPA?
- 4.--what is your current or planned major?
- 5.--what is your grade level, meaning sophomore, junior, etc?
- 6.--briefly describe current and/or recent past experiences in the environment/natural resources arena, especially in the sciences and research. Also--if you have attended an NHEC Institute before, state where and when. Briefly describe why you want to attend another.
- 7.--what city/state do you live in?
- 8.--what airport(s) could you fly out of on August 5 (day the NM Institute starts) should you be selected?
- 9.--how old are you?
- 10.--what is your date of birth?
- 11.--are you interested in a potential job, internship, or other opportunity next summer (i.e. summer 2019) with the NM Institute's 3 federal sponsors—U.S. FS; USDA NRCS; U.S. EPA.

12.--you understand that only US Citizens or Legal Permanent Residents are eligible for positions with federal agencies?

13.--are you a US Citizen or Legal Permanent Resident?

14.--provide a home and/or cell number and email address for upcoming contact.

NHEC will contact you shortly after receiving your email to further discuss your interests, qualifications, and review the formal application process. The formal application materials and forms will be sent out shortly.

So--if you are passionate about the environment, love science, have a minimum 3.0 GPA, AND been seeking a job or research position in the environmental arena, this program is for you.

To answer three common FAQ's:

1. yes, slots are available although these will go fast.
2. there is no deadline per se; NHEC reviews applications/selects students on a rolling basis until all slots are filled. **Therefore students are strongly urged to apply asap.** And
3. as this is a federally funded program students must be U.S. Citizens or Permanent Legal Residents (only) to be eligible.

Finally, we ask you to forward this information to those interested in this unique STEM program, including qualified students, educators, colleges, organizations, and more. We thank you for your help with this.

Please contact NHEC's Programs Coordinator, Juan Rodriguez, at jrodriguez@nheec1.org or rrivera@nheec1.org if you have questions and/or to send your preliminary application. Or call NHEC at 703-683-3956 or Juan Rodriguez at 703-861-6064. Or at www.nheec1.org

Roger Rivera
President, NHEC