

## 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 first annual **Pacific Northwest Environmental STEM Institute**, to be held June 2—10, 2018 at national forests, parks, laboratories, and other environmental sites in Portland, OR and nearby areas.

Students will be competitively selected from across the U.S. and Puerto Rico; must have a minimum 3.0 GPA; be demonstrably pursuing an environmental or natural resource related major; and possess relevant environmental experiences and academic background.

The main sponsor for the PNW Institute is Region 6 of the U.S. Forest Service (states of Oregon and Washington); with additional support from the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service. **With funding from sponsors NHEC covers all costs—airfare, housing, meals, science equipment, and more--to attend.**

Students selected will be housed and fed, and coursework/presentations held at **the University of Portland, in Portland, OR**. This is a private Catholic university overlooking the scenic Willamette River. In the PNW Institute students will conduct formal Environmental Science Field Studies on a variety of federal and private lands in the Northwest ecosystem, and explore some of the most beautiful natural areas in the U.S., including the Columbia River Gorge, Mount Hood, and Mount Saint Helens.

This is one of 3 Environmental STEM Institutes -- in NY, NM, CA, and now OR – that NHEC runs each summer as we work to address underrepresentation issues and build the next generation of Latino/minority environmental professionals and scientists. As to 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 PNW Institute is an intensive, residential, strongly science-based, hands-on, 9 day long conservation education and conservation career program** for top college STEM students, aged 17-22, deeply interested in and actively pursuing an environmental/conservation related 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 issues/methodologies. 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 analysis in environmental laboratories.

Also participating are volunteer role models--environmental professionals, many from the sciences and of color--most especially from Region 6. They will be on-site at the Institute to engage/guide/inspire students as they pursue their 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 -- has been a long-standing, vital element of all our Institutes.

PNW 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 Region 6 staff and others eager to talk to qualified, science-focused students about career, job, and science opportunities in the Northwest region in 2019 and beyond.

**If interested, you will help yourself a great deal by answering the following preliminary questions and emailing NHEC asap (see below).** This will give NHEC a quick overview of your eligibility and especially qualifications, and save you 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 if presently a senior in high school will attend this September)?
- 2.--if a senior in high school, what school do you currently attend and where?
- 3.--what is 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 program before state where and when.
- 7.--what city/state do you live in?
- 8.--what airport(s) could you fly out of on June 2 (day PNW 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 or other opportunity next summer (meaning summer 2019) with the U.S. Forest Service (or other federal agencies), especially in FS Region 6? (Oregon and Washington)
- 12.--you understand that only US Citizens or Legal Permanent Residents are eligible for positions with the U.S. Forest Service or other 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 FAQ's: 1. yes, slots are still available although will go fast. 2. there is no deadline per se; NHEC reviews applications/selects students on a rolling basis until all slots are filled. Thus 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 to be eligible.

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

Please contact NHEC's Programs Coordinator, Juan Rodriguez, at [jrodriguez@nheec1.org](mailto:jrodriguez@nheec1.org) or [rrivera@nheec1.org](mailto: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](http://www.nheec1.org)

Roger Rivera  
President, NHEC