

National Hispanic Environmental Council



APPLICATION INFORMATION: HOW TO APPLY

THE 5th ANNUAL

CA MINORITY YOUTH ENVIRONMENTAL TRAINING INSTITUTE

An Environmental STEM Program

“6 Days of Learning, A Lifetime of Experience”

JUNE 17—22, 2014

**HELD AT CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY—CHANNEL ISLANDS—AND
NATIONAL FORESTS, NATIONAL PARKS, AND OTHER SITES IN/AROUND THE SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA AREA**

The National Hispanic Environmental Council (NHEC) is accepting applications from students from California, Arizona, and Oregon, aged 17—19, to attend its upcoming 5th annual, regional “California Minority Youth Environmental Training Institute”. The Institute is an intensive, residential, strongly science-based 6 day environmental education and environmental career program for top students – competitively selected – and demonstrably active in the environment.

The CA Institute will be held June 17—22, 2014 at California State University, Channel Islands, as well as a number of national forests, national parks, state parks, and more in the S. California area. Sites to be visited include the Angeles National Forest, Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area, Channel Islands National Park, Malibu State Park and more.

Through these site visits; use of a rigorous Environmental STEM curriculum; high-level issue presentations; and environmental field studies including air, water, and soil testing; students will receive an in-depth environmental learning experience. The major sponsors of the CA Institute are the Pacific Southwest Region (R-5) of the U.S. Forest Service; the FS Pacific Southwest Research Station; and the U.S. EPA.

Students will be competitively selected for the scholarship, based on a variety of criteria. For more details on the CA 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, enjoy science, and meet the academic and experiential criteria outlined below. As to 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. If in college the student has declared in some environmental or natural resource major, or if not yet declared it is demonstrably apparent 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 in the sciences;
7. Extracurricular and/or community activities;
8. Diversity—by age, gender, race, ethnicity, geography, environmental major, environmental experiences, and other factors.

ELIGIBILITY:

As this is a regional Institute, eligibility is limited to students from CA, AZ, and Oregon. Eligibility is also limited to students aged 17—19; this typically means a senior in high school or a freshman or sophomore in college. As this is a federally funded program, eligibility is limited to U.S. Citizens and Permanent Legal 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 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 our sponsors.
6. How can you now and in the future make a difference to our environment?
7. How may your race, ethnicity, gender, and/or culture play a role in helping the environment?
8. 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: CA Institute

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

Questions: email Juan Rodriguez, NHEC Programs Coordinator, at jrodriguez@nheec1.org