

## National Hispanic Environmental Council



### APPLICATION INFORMATION: HOW TO APPLY

THE 14th ANNUAL

### NEW MEXICO MINORITY YOUTH ENVIRONMENTAL TRAINING INSTITUTE

*An Environmental STEM Program*

**“10 Days of Learning, A Lifetime of Experience”**

**August 8—17, 2015**

**HELD AT GLORIETA CONFERENCE CENTER – AND –**

**AT NATIONAL PARKS, NATIONAL FORESTS, AND OTHER SITES IN NORTHERN NEW MEXICO**

The National Hispanic Environmental Council (NHEC) is accepting applications from students, aged 17—20, to attend its upcoming 14th annual, national “New Mexico Minority Youth Environmental Training Institute”. The Institute is an intensive, residential, strongly science-based, 10 day environmental education and environmental career program for top students—competitively selected—and demonstrably active in the environment. The NM Institute will be held August 8—17, 2015 at the Glorieta Conference Center in Glorieta, NM, as well as a number of national parks, national forests, state parks, and private lands in New Mexico.

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; students will receive an in-depth environmental learning experience. The major sponsors of the NM Institute are once again the U.S. Forest Service; the U.S. EPA; and the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service.

**If you are selected, NHEC will provide a full scholarship that covers all your major costs to attend**, including all transportation costs such as 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 students are especially urged to do so, given the severe underrepresentation of Latinos in environmental and conservation fields.

**Students will be competitively selected** for the scholarship, based on a variety of criteria. For more details on the NM 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](http://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 if 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 national Institute, eligibility is open to students from all 50 states and Puerto Rico. Eligibility is limited to students aged 17—20. As this is a federally funded program, eligibility is limited to U.S. Citizens and Permanent Legal Residents. Students with DACA status should apply, with further discussions to be held with you.

## 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. State your name and email address, and 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 conservation issues interest you the most?
5. Your future career and/or college goals as they relate to the environment, and especially if with the Forest Service, US EPA, and/or NRCS, the Institute's sponsors.
6. State whether you are interested in and available to work (job or internship) next summer (summer 2016) with the U.S. Forest Service.
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: NM Institute

Phone: 703-683-3956

Questions: email Juan Rodriguez, NHEC Programs Coordinator, at [jrodriguez@nheec1.org](mailto:jrodriguez@nheec1.org)