



**APPLICATION INFORMATION: HOW TO APPLY**

**THE 9<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL**

**NYC MINORITY YOUTH ENVIRONMENTAL TRAINING INSTITUTE**

*An Environmental STEM Program*

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

**JUNE 26—JULY 3, 2014**

**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 New York area students, aged 17—19**, to attend its upcoming 9<sup>th</sup> annual, regional “New York City Minority Youth Environmental Training Institute”. The Institute is an intensive, residential, strongly science-based, 8 day environmental education and environmental career program for top students --competitively selected -- and demonstrably active in the environment. The NYC Institute will be held June 26—July 3, 2014 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 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 sponsor of the NYC Institute is the Eastern Region of the U.S. Forest Service, with additional support from 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 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 natural resource fields.

**Students will be competitively selected** for the scholarship, based on a variety of criteria. For more details on the NYC 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 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 the NY tri-state area (that is, NY, NJ, and CT). 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 the Forest Service and/or NRCS, the Institute's sponsors.
6. State whether you are interested in and available to work this summer for the Forest Service in the YCC job (as described in the Fact Sheet), should FS offer you a job.

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: NYC Institute

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

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