

National Hispanic Environmental Council



**NATIONAL HISPANIC ENVIRONMENTAL COUNCIL  
APPLICATION INFORMATION: HOW TO APPLY**

**THE 1st ANNUAL NHEC PACIFIC NORTHWEST ENVIRONMENTAL STEM  
INSTITUTE**

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

**• June 2 – 10, 2018 • Portland, OR**

**HELD AT THE UNIVERSITY OF PORTLAND – AND – AT NATIONAL  
FORESTS, NATIONAL PARKS, PRIVATE LANDS, AND OTHER SITES  
IN/AROUND PORTLAND AND CENTRAL OREGON**

The National Hispanic Environmental Council (NHEC) is accepting applications from students, aged 17—22, to attend its upcoming first annual “Pacific Northwest Environmental STEM Institute”. The Institute is an intensive, residential, strongly science-based, 9 day conservation education and conservation science career program for top STEM students aged 17-22-- competitively selected -- and demonstrably active in the environment. **The new PNW Institute is identical to the other Environmental STEM Institutes NHEC has been holding for years in NY, NM, and CA.**

PNW will be held June 2--10, 2018 at the University of Portland in Portland, OR, as well as a number of national forests, national parks, city parks, private lands, and more in Portland and surrounding areas. Some of the amazing natural wonders and unique ecosystems that students will explore, hike, and conduct field studies near include Mount Hood, Mount St. Helens, and the Columbia River Gorge.

Through these site visits; use of a strong Environmental STEM curriculum; high-level issue presentations; Environmental Field Studies including air, water, and soil testing, biological assessments using professional-grade science equipment, and more; **students will receive an in-depth, hands-on environmental science learning experience.**

The major sponsor of the PNW Institute is Region 6 of the U.S. Forest Service. R6 comprises the states of Washington and Oregon—the heart of the beautiful Pacific Northwest—with additional funding/support from the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS).

Further--Forest Service/ R6 and NRCS are very interested in meeting top diversity STEM students with a love of our natural heritage and a passion for science. In other words—students just like you. There are a range of exciting potential opportunities in the employment, academic, career, and science/research field with these agencies

**If you are selected NHEC will provide a full scholarship that covers all your major costs to attend**, including airfare, housing, meals, local transportation, educational materials, and on-site environmental science equipment. 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/ minority students are especially urged to do so, given the severe underrepresentation of students of color in environmental and conservation STEM fields. Students will be competitively selected based on the criteria described below.

For more details on the PNW Institute, please read the Fact Sheet and other materials.

**The following will help students prepare applications. Successful applicants will:**

1. Be a serious student with proven academic and experiential background in the environment/natural resources, as outlined in the Selection Criteria.
2. 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 showing your classes and grades, including your GPA. If obtaining an official transcript will be difficult or time-consuming at this point, 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.
6. **To speed your initial materials to us, applicants may scan/email their essays and transcripts to NHEC: to [jrodriguez@nheec1.org](mailto:jrodriguez@nheec1.org) and [rrivera@nheec1.org](mailto:rrivera@nheec1.org)**

## WHAT WE ARE LOOKING FOR

NHEC is seeking mature, disciplined students who are passionate about the environment, love science, meet the academic/ experiential criteria below, and interested in potentially working for the U.S. Forest Service, the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service or others next year. As for 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. Proven academic background containing environmental-related coursework, whether in high school and/or college;
3. Proven background in a relevant environmental experience, activity or job;
4. A minimum 3.0 GPA;
5. The student has declared in an environmental or natural resource science related major—OR--if not yet declared it is obvious the student will do so;
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, school attending, environmental experiences, and other factors.

## ELIGIBILITY

Students from across the U.S. and Puerto Rico are eligible to apply. Students must have a minimum 3.0 GPA. Students must be aged 17—22. This means a senior in high school moving on to college this September, or a freshman, sophomore, junior or senior undergraduate in college. As this is a federally-funded program eligibility is limited to U.S. Citizens and Legal Permanent 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 name and 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 academic, science/research, and career goals as they relate to the environment, and especially if with the U.S. Forest Service, NRCS, or others, the Institute's sponsors.
6. You must state whether you are interested in a FS or NRCS position in summer 2019. If you already have another commitment set for summer 2019 and thus are unavailable please state.
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? Students may self-identify their race, ethnicity or other diversity factors.
9. Why should we select you to attend the Institute?

## MAIL YOUR COMPLETED APPLICATION PACKAGE TO

**National Hispanic Environmental Council, P.O. Box 2703 Fairfax, VA 22031**

**Attention: 2018 PNW Institute**

**NHEC Office: 703-683-3956**

**Questions: email Juan Rodriguez, NHEC Programs Coordinator at [jrodriguez@nheec1.org](mailto:jrodriguez@nheec1.org) or call his cell at 703-861-6064**