

National Hispanic Environmental Council



APPLICATION INFORMATION: HOW TO APPLY

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA MINORITY YOUTH ENVIRONMENTAL TRAINING INSTITUTE

“6 Days of Learning, A Lifetime of Experience”

July 13–18, 2007

In and Around the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area

The **National Hispanic Environmental Council (NHEC)** is accepting applications from qualified teens, aged 16–18 from across California, to attend its 1st annual “Southern California Minority Youth Environmental Training Institute”, to be held July 13–18, 2007 at several parks and forests in Southern California, including Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area and Channel Islands National Park. The Institute is an intensive, residential, science-based, highly educational 6 day program, and is modeled on NHEC's successful national Institute run each summer in New Mexico for the last six years. Thus, the Institute is for serious, mature students with proven environmental interest. The Institute is being funded by several agencies, including the California Coastal Conservancy and the Pacific West Region of the National Park Service. The following will help students prepare their applications. **For more detailed information on the Institute please read the “Fact Sheet” and other materials.**

If you are selected, NHEC will provide a full scholarship that will pay all your major costs to attend, including housing, all meals, educational materials, and related on-site equipment. There is no fee to apply, and only a \$15 registration fee (for the entire 6 days) if you are selected. NHEC will waive the \$15 fee for any student who is accepted into the Institute, but is unable to pay the fee due to proven financial hardship. The Institute is open to all youth aged 16–18, and all are welcome to apply. Latino youth are especially urged to send applications, given the severe under-representation of Latinos in environmental fields. **Note: Only residents of California are eligible for this program.**

TO APPLY, YOU MUST

1. **Be a serious student** with proven experience in the environment, or can demonstrate to us that you have a genuine interest in the environment.
2. **Read 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 calling NHEC, or by going to the NHEC web page at www.nheec.org. However, **you cannot apply on-line; you must mail us your completed application package.**
3. **Write a one page essay.** This essay will be particularly important in selecting students for the Institute. See below for more details on what to include in your essay.

Manuel Hernandez
Board Chairman, NHEC
and Chairman 10th Annual Conference
Post Office Box 70196
Riverside, CA 92513

Roger Rivera
President, NHEC
106 N. Fayette Street
Alexandria, VA 22314
(703) 683-3956 FAX: (703) 256-8288
www.nheec.org

4. **Include a copy of your latest school report card and/or transcript** showing your classes and grades, including your GPA.
5. Apply as soon as possible, as early applicants will have a better chance of acceptance.

WHAT WE ARE LOOKING FOR

NHEC is seeking mature, serious applicants with active experience (past or present) in the environment, and/or are strongly interested in pursuing an environmental or natural resource career in the future, **especially with the National Park Service**. If you have been actively involved in any kind of environmental program, class, project, or job, either in school or out, you are eligible to apply. Remember—the more you tell us about your past or present activities in the environment, the greater the chance of being accepted into the Institute.

We are also interested in receiving applications from youth who may not have any prior experience in an environmental activity, but who are strongly and genuinely interested in learning more about the environment, especially related careers and colleges. **But, you must be able to show us this strong interest—convincingly.**

Remember—the Institute is not summer camp. It is for students who are seriously interested in learning more about the environment and related careers, especially at CA state environmental agencies or the National Park Service, and willing to diligently participate in a challenging, intellectually stimulating program for 6 days. Through your application packet we will be able to determine your interest, intent, and seriousness.

SELECTION CRITERIA

Applicants from across California (note—CA residents only are eligible) will be competitively selected for the Institute scholarship, based on their application package and a variety of criteria. This criteria includes:

1. students' maturity and seriousness of intentions;
2. students' academic background and achievements, including GPA;
3. proven experience in some environmental activity, program, class, project, or job, especially if associated with federal or CA state environmental agencies, and especially the National Park Service.
4. ability to show a genuine interest in the environment, especially as a future career;
5. extracurricular and/or community activities that may not be related to the environment, but reflect well upon you as an applicant.
6. Diversity by age, gender, race, ethnicity, geography, environmental experience, and other factors.

WRITING YOUR ESSAY

A one page essay is required with your application. You must describe—in your own words—your qualifications for and interest in the Institute. **This essay will be especially important in selecting students for the Institute. DO NOT have your parents write your essay. Trust us—we can tell, and doing this may disqualify you.** Your essay should tell us:

1. Your GPA.
2. Why you want to attend the Institute.
3. Your qualifications. Tell us what kinds of environmental activities, programs, classes, jobs, etc. you have been involved in past or present, especially if it relates to parks or NPS, or California State agencies.
4. Your future career and/or college goals, especially if they relate to the environment and/or NPS.
5. How can you now, and in the future, make a difference to our environment?
6. How might your race, ethnicity, gender and/or culture play a role in helping the environment?
7. Why should we select you to attend the Institute?

MAIL YOUR COMPLETED APPLICATION PACKAGE TO:

National Hispanic Environmental Council
Att: S.CA Minority Youth Environmental Training Institute
106 N. Fayette Street
Alexandria, VA 22314