



NHEC ENVIRONMENTAL STEM INSTITUTES

2021 SELECTION CRITERIA FOR STUDENTS

-- Due to the Covid pandemic, and as this is a 100% federally-funded program, students must agree to the following to be accepted into and participate on-site (meaning in-person) in an NHEC Institute:

--With nationwide Covid vaccination readily available, in adherence with CDC and state guidelines, and with the knowledge/participation of NHEC's federal agency partners, NHEC has resumed holding in-person Institutes for 2021. Therefore:

--Students must be vaccinated to participate; must submit a copy of the CDC card providing proof of vaccination; wear a mask during certain indoor presentations; and agree for the first 2021 Institute to be held (in New Mexico in August) to follow current CDC and State of NM Covid guidelines. NHEC's NY and CA Institutes will be held later in the fall and these rules will also apply.

-- aged 18—22 and an undergraduate in college. This can also include a high school senior who has been accepted to and will be entering college as a freshman this September; must provide college acceptance letter with application.

--**minimum 3.0 GPA.**

--provide college transcript to verify GPA and major.

--demonstrably pursuing an **environmental/conservation/agricultural/natural resource major in the sciences.**

--possess proven past/current science academic coursework and/or research.

--possess proven past/current environmental experience(s).

--submit Application Form and Medical Form.

--submit the required Essay that addresses a number of questions posed regarding students' past/current environmental experiences and related academics, as well as future environmental academic, research, and career goals, and more.

--participates in the required telephone interview.

--shows convincing interest in the mission of, opportunities with, and especially, potentially working (as interns, part-time, or later full-time employment) for federal agencies, especially U.S. Forest Service, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, and U.S. EPA, the Institute's sponsors.

This is vital, **as these funders are participating specifically to meet/interview/recruit students interested in and seeking opportunities with these agencies, for 2021 and 2022. In particular, the sponsors seek students in majors that relate to their “mission critical occupations”**; this includes forestry, ecology, soil science, environmental and civil engineering, range management, and more. Students with these majors are especially urged to apply.

--**Diversity**—by gender, geography, age, race, ethnicity, urban/rural, major, college, college level, GPA, science experience, and more.

--As Institutes are federally funded **the program is open to all students who meet the above criteria**. However, NHEC and our federal sponsors are **especially seeking students from underserved and underrepresented populations**, including Hispanic Americans, African Americans, Native Americans, Asian Americans, and more. These populations have been and remain historically underrepresented, often severely, in environmental, agricultural, and natural resource science fields.

REMEMBER: With funding from our federal sponsors, **NHEC covers all major costs** (airfare, lodging, meals, local transportation on-site, science equipment, etc) for those students selected to attend the Institutes. **There is no fee to apply.**