

Breadcrumb

1. [Home](#)
2. Print
3. Pdf
4. Node
5. Entity Print

Safeguarding Natural Heritage

Last Modified:

Every year since 2007, APHIS has collaborated with Tribal colleges and universities (TCUs), and other Native American Serving Institutions, to deliver Safeguarding Natural Heritage (SNH), a 2-week summer outreach program that helps students ages 14-17 explore careers in plant and animal science, wildlife management, and agribusiness.

Students participate in hands-on labs, workshops, discussion groups, field trips, and character- and team-building activities led by Tribal elders, practitioners, and professionals, university professors, and U.S. Government scientists while living on a college campus.

Sample activities include: studying the life cycles and habits of insects (entomologists); inspect and regulate certain genetically engineered organisms (biotechnologists); examining cells and tissues under a microscope to identify diseases (plant pathologists); working to conserve and manage wild animals and their habitats (wildlife biologists); carrying out animal health programs (veterinarians); learning about on the humane care and treatment of animals (veterinarians and animal care inspectors); and studying the business aspects of protecting plants and animals (agribusiness).

Students chosen to participate in SNH pay only the cost of transportation to and from the college/university campus. All other costs—including tuition, room and

board, and laboratory supplies—will be covered by APHIS.

In 2024, APHIS' SNH partners will include the College of Menominee Nation, Diné College, Navajo Technical University, the University of North Carolina at Pembroke, College of Menominee Nation, Fond Du Lac Tribal and Community College, and Salish Kootenai College. To learn more about possible opportunities at these specific institutions, please use the contact information provided below. For general information about SNH, please contact APHIS National Tribal Liaison Terry Clark at (301) 440-4388 or Terry.W.Clark@usda.gov, or Assistant National Tribal Liaison Carl Etsitty at (970) 494-7573 or Carl.Etsitty@usda.gov.

[Download the 2024 Brochure](#)

Participating SNH Schools, 2024

Diné College

P.O. Box C01

Tsaile, AZ 86556

Contact: Benita Litson

928-724-6940

blitson@dinecollege.edu

Navajo Technical University

New Mexico State Highway 371 & NN9

P.O. Box 849

Crownpoint, NM 87313

Contact: Germaine Daye

505-387-7410

slbegay@navajotech.edu

University of North Carolina at Pembroke

P.O. Box 1510

Pembroke, NC 28372

Contact: Mary Beth Locklear

910-775-4020

mary.locklear@uncp.edu

College of Menominee Nation

N172 Highway 47/55,

P.O. Box 1179

Keshena, WI 54135

Contact: Matilda Peters

715-799-5600, ext. 3251

mpeters@menominee.edu

Fond du Lac Tribal and Community College

2101 14th Street

Cloquet, MN 55720

Contact: Joseph Bruce

218-879-0862

joseph.bruce@fdltcc.edu

Salish Kootenai College

58138 Highway 93

Pablo, MT 59855

Contact: Virgil Dupuis

406-275-4800, ext. 4899

virgil_dupuis@skc.edu

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