

Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

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The Safeguarding Natural Heritage Program: Investing in Tribal Youth

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) partners with tribal colleges and universities and historically American Indian institutions to deliver the Safeguarding Natural Heritage (SNH) program.

Are You...

- ▲ a middle or high school student looking for a unique summer internship with an opportunity to live and study on a college campus?
- ▲ a high school student looking to improve your resume for college?
- ▲ a teacher looking for opportunities to expand your students' view of agriculture and natural resources?
- ▲ a parent looking for learning opportunities for your teen?

If so, APHIS offers you an opportunity of a lifetime.

What Is the SNH Program?

It is a summer outreach program to help teenagers explore careers in plant and animal science, wildlife management, and agribusiness. The SNH program allows students to live on a college campus and learn about agriculture from tribal elders and professionals, university professors, and U.S. Government personnel who work in a variety of fields. They study the life cycles and habits of insects (entomologists); research micro-organisms, such as bacteria and viruses (biotechnologists); examine cells and tissues under a microscope to identify diseases (plant pathologists);

work to conserve and manage wild animals and their habitats (wildlife biologists); carry out animal health programs (veterinarians); provide education on the humane care and treatment of animals (veterinarians and animal care inspectors); and manage the business aspects of protecting plants and animals (agribusiness).

This 2-week program engages students ages 14–17 who want to learn more about agriculture and natural resources, with emphasis on preserving their natural heritage. Students chosen to participate in the program will gain experience through hands-on labs, discussion groups, and field trips. They will also participate in character- and team-building activities and a variety of workshops.

Who Sponsors the Program?

APHIS cosponsors the SNH program with tribal colleges and universities and historically American Indian institutions. Many of the Federal Government's professional plant scientists, biotechnologists, veterinarians, and wildlife biologists work for APHIS. The agency funds the program each year, and partner universities host program participants at their local campuses.

This year, APHIS is partnering with the Cherokee Nation Sequoyah School, Diné College, Navajo Technical University, and the University of North Carolina at Pembroke. Each school's program is focusing on a specific area of interest to their tribal nation's agriculture, such as plant health, entomology, veterinary science, animal care, biotechnology, and agribusiness.

The SNH program is a unique opportunity for students to gain first-hand looks at the many career paths open to them in the agricultural and natural resource sciences. For those interested in an agricultural or natural resources career, the SNH program is a great way to get started.

How Much Will It Cost?

Students chosen for the program will only pay the cost of transportation to and from the hosting campus. All other costs—including tuition, room and board, and lab supplies—will be covered by APHIS.

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Where Can I Go for More Information?

For more information about the SNH program, including specific dates and application requirements, please visit our Web site at www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/ourfocus/tribalrelations/native-youth or contact:

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