



Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE



Safeguarding Natural Heritage 2025

Strengthening American Agriculture
by Investing in Youth







Explore Exciting Careers in Agriculture

Are you a middle or high school¹ student looking for a unique summer enrichment program with an opportunity to live and study on a college campus and improve your résumé for college?

Are you a teacher or parent looking for ways to expand your students' view of agriculture and natural resources?

Look no further! The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) offers you an opportunity of a lifetime.

Safeguarding Natural Heritage (SNH) is a free summer outreach program to help students explore careers in agricultural sciences and natural resources within and outside the environs of a Tribal community.

As an SNH student, you'll live on a college campus for 2 weeks and learn from university professors and USDA experts—plant and animal scientists, biotechnologists, veterinarians, wildlife biologists, administrative professionals, and others. You'll gain hands-on experience through labs, workshops, and field trips; participate in character- and team-building activities; and join in many other fun and educational events. The program also introduces you to sustainable agriculture and farming, with a view toward preserving your natural heritage and increasing awareness of the harm invasive species can do. It's a great chance to explore the many exciting career paths in agriculture—not only within your own Tribal community, but also at USDA.

In 2025, six schools are participating in SNH. Each school's program focuses on a specific area of interest to its Nation's agriculture, such as plant health, entomology, biotechnology, veterinary science, animal care, and agribusiness. Read on to learn more about this year's program, including dates, locations, and how to apply.

¹SNH is designed for students ages 14 to 17. Some schools may allow high-achieving, independent 7th or 8th grade students as well. Contact the host school directly to ask about participation requirements.



Diné College

June 8-20, 2025

SNH application deadline: May 29, 2025



Diné College, a designated 1994 land-grant institution, was established in 1968 as the first tribally controlled community college in the United States. Based in Tsaile, AZ, Diné College is located 70 miles north of Window Rock, AZ, in the heart of the 27,000-square-mile Navajo Nation, and serves the Nation's residents in New Mexico and Utah as well as Arizona. As a post-secondary land-grant institution rooted in Navajo language and culture, the college awards degrees and certificates in areas important to the economic and social development of the Navajo Nation.

For more information or an application, contact:

Benita Litson

Director

Diné College Land Grant Office

P.O. Box C01

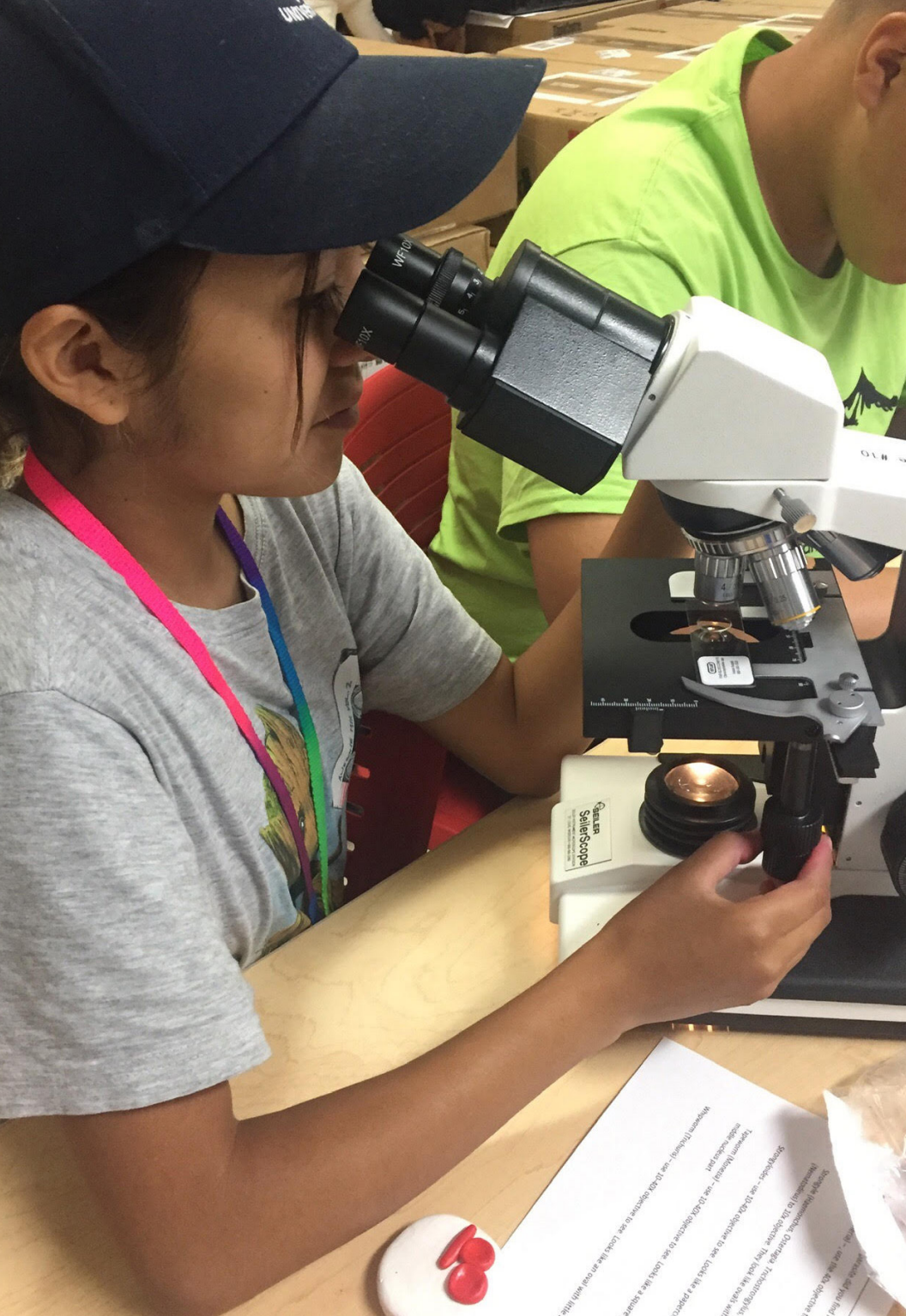
Tsaile, AZ 86556

(928) 724-6940

blitson@dinecollege.edu

www.dinecollege.edu

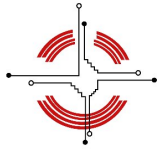




Navajo Technical University

June 9-20, 2025

SNH application deadline: May 2, 2025



**NAVAJO
TECHNICAL
UNIVERSITY**
ESTABLISHED 1979

Initially established in 1979 as the Navajo Skill Center in Crownpoint, NM, Navajo Technical University (NTU) is the Navajo Nation's first university. A highly respected land-grant institution, NTU offers technical, vocational, and academic degrees, as well as community education, in a student-oriented, hands-on learning environment with state-of-the-art classroom equipment. A highlight of the university's curriculum is NTU's Veterinary Technology program, which offers hands-on clinical and field experience as well as formal classroom instruction for students pursuing careers in animal health and other fields. NTU is the first Tribal college to develop a baccalaureate of science degree in Animal Science, providing students with many career options and the opportunity to apply to professional schools such as veterinary medicine.

For more information or an application, contact:

Sharie Begay

Office Manager

slbegay@navajotech.edu

Germaine Daye, D.V.M.

Veterinary Teaching Hospital and Land Grant Program Director

landgrant@navajotech.edu

Navajo Technical University

New Mexico State Highway 371 & NN9, P.O. Box 849

Crownpoint, NM 87313

(505) 387-7410 | www.navajotech.edu



July 7 -18, 2025

SNH application deadline: May 31, 2025



The University of North Carolina at Pembroke (UNCP)—designated as “North Carolina’s historically American Indian University” by the North Carolina Assembly and home to the Southeast American Indian Studies Program—is an ideal setting for SNH. Founded in 1887 to train teachers from the Lumbee Tribe, UNC Pembroke confers more undergraduate degrees on American Indians than any institution east of the Mississippi River. Between 1887 and 1952, the institution’s student body was all Indian. From 1939 to 1953, the institution was the only State-supported, 4-year college for American Indians in the United States. Today, approximately 13.2 percent of the student body is American Indian, representing Native communities throughout North Carolina and beyond.

For more information or an application, contact:

Mary Beth Locklear

Office of Undergraduate Admissions

University of North Carolina at Pembroke

P.O. Box 1510

Pembroke, NC 28372

(910) 775-4020

mary.locklear@uncp.edu

www.uncp.edu



College of Menominee Nation

July 21-August 1, 2025
SNH application deadline: July 6, 2025



The College of Menominee Nation (CMN) began offering classes in January 1993 with 42 students enrolled in general education courses. As an institution of higher education chartered by the Menominee people, this land-grant college infuses education with American Indian culture, preparing students for a multicultural world. CMN's Department of Continuing Education is committed to providing training and educational opportunities using the circle of life model, which equips and empowers the community—from youth to elders—to take ownership and responsibility to improve their lives.

For more information or an application, contact:

Matilda Peters

Youth Program Extension Coordinator

College of Menominee Nation, Keshena Campus

N172 Highway 47/55

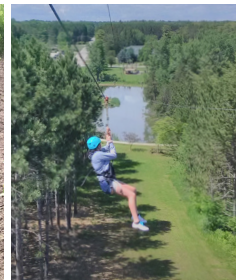
P.O. Box 1179

Keshena, WI 54135

(715) 799-5600, ext. 3251

mpeters@menominee.edu

www.menominee.edu





Fond du Lac Tribal & Community College

June 9-20, 2025
SNH application deadline:
May 31, 2025



Fond du Lac Tribal and Community College has a mission of providing education to the public through a union of cultures. A unique partnership between Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa and Minnesota State Colleges and Universities offers all students the opportunity to learn in a comfortable and diverse environment. Founded in 1987, the College offers 2-year associate degrees and certificates across a wide range of program areas, including: law enforcement, human services, nursing, business, electric utility technology, clean energy, American Indian studies, child development, geospatial technologies, and environmental science. Fond du Lac Tribal and Community College is accredited by the World Indigenous Nations Higher Education Consortium as well as the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools.

For more information or an application, contact:

Joseph Bruce

Youth Education Outreach Coordinator
Fond du Lac Tribal and Community College
2101 14th Street
Cloquet, MN 55720
(218) 879-0862
joseph.bruce@fdltcc.edu
www.fdlitcc.edu





Salish Kootenai College

June 11-20, 2025

SNH application deadline: May 15, 2025



**SALISH KOOTENAI
COLLEGE**

Salish Kootenai College (SKC) is a Tribal College founded in 1976 whose mission is to provide quality post-secondary educational opportunities for Native Americans, locally and throughout the United States. SKC seeks to promote community and individual development and perpetuate the cultures of the Confederated Tribes of the Flathead Nation. The college offers an associate degree program in natural resources; bachelor's degree programs in forestry, fire science, hydrology, and wildlife; and as of fall 2021, a master's degree program in natural resources management. The Natural Resources Department supports individual and community empowerment through meaningful partnerships that take many forms, including enhancing student-community research internship capacity. SKC also offers undergraduate degrees in a number of other fields, including: nursing, education, psychology, business, information technology, Native American studies, Tribal Governance and Administration, and Tribal Historic Preservation.

For more information or an application, contact:

Virgil Dupuis

Department Director, Salish Kootenai College Extension

Salish Kootenai College

58138 Highway 93, Pablo, MT 59855

(406) 275-4800, ext. 4899

virgil_dupuis@skc.edu

www.skc.edu



SNH 2025: General Information

Learn more about APHIS and all our student opportunities:

www.aphis.usda.gov/tribal-relations

www.aphis.usda.gov/careers

How To Apply

Although SNH is focused on students between the ages of 14 and 17, students slightly younger or older may also be eligible to apply, depending on the school. Most schools require the following materials:

- ▲ Complete application (including emergency contact and related information)
- ▲ Short essay (your general interests, hobbies, future plans, and specific interest in the program)
- ▲ Letters of recommendation
- ▲ High school transcript
- ▲ Brief biography (no more than 250 words)

For guidance on specific requirements, contact the school of your choice directly.

Costs

The SNH program is free. USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) covers the cost of tuition, room and board, and laboratory supplies. You are only responsible for the cost of traveling to the university campus on opening day and returning home at the conclusion of the program.

For More Information

If you have questions about the SNH program, contact APHIS' Office of the National Tribal Liaison:

Denise Salvetti
Program Analyst
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Carl Etsitty
Associate Director
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Terry W. Clark, D.V.M.
Director
terry.w.clark@usda.gov





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