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Diné College

Diné College is a federally recognized, tribally controlled college, a designated 1994 Land-Grant Institution, and a member in good standing with the American Indian Higher Education Consortium (AIHEC). Chartered in 1968, Diné College has attained remarkable achievements in its relatively short existence. Beginning in 1976, the college was recognized by the Higher Learning Commission as a candidate for accreditation. In 1968, Diné College became the first Tribal College, and was later joined by other tribal colleges under the statutory requirements of the Tribally Controlled Community College Assistance Act of 1978. In June 2002, the U.S. Department of Education's Office of Civil Rights officially recognized Diné College, and other Tribally Controlled Colleges as a Minority Serving Institution.

**For more information about
Diné College, contact**

Benita Litson, Director
Diné College Land Grant Office
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U.S. Department of Agriculture
Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

USDA/APHIS-Diné College

**Safeguarding Natural
Heritage Program:
Strengthening Navajo
Youth Connections
to the Land**

**Diné College
Tsaile, Arizona**

What is the Safeguarding Natural Heritage Program?

The "Safeguarding Natural Heritage Program: Strengthening Navajo Youth Connections to the Land" is an educational outreach program designed to enhance youths' exposure to agriculture, natural resources, and wildlife biology, through activities within the environs of the communities of the Navajo Nation. The program will expose students to sustainable agriculture and farming, with a view to preserve their natural heritage, as well as increase students' awareness of invasive species issues. Additionally, students will learn about potential job opportunities for college graduates, not only within their own tribal community, but potentially within APHIS.

The 12-day program is open to students 14 to 17 years of age who wish to learn more about safeguarding their natural heritage, both within and outside of the Navajo Nation. Students chosen to participate will gain experience through hands-on labs, workshops, discussions, field trips, and team-building activities.

Who is Sponsoring the Safeguarding Natural Heritage Program?

USDA-APHIS is joining forces with Diné College to sponsor the "Safeguarding Natural Heritage Program: Strengthening Navajo Youth Connections to the Land".

How Much Will it Cost?

Students selected for the program will pay only the cost of transportation to travel to the Diné College campus on June 17, and to return to their home on June 29. The cost of tuition, dormitory housing, meals, and lab fees, will be covered by APHIS.

How Do I Apply?

Students between the ages of 14 and 17 are eligible to apply to the program.

Here's what to include in your application package:

- ◆ A completed and signed application, parental release form, and health history/emergency information form.
- ◆ A short essay entitled, "How my interest in agriculture, natural resources, and the environment can help me, my community, and the country." In the essay, include information about your interests, hobbies, and hopes for the future.
- ◆ Two letters of recommendation from people not related to you, who know you well. At least one letter must come from a teacher or school counselor.

Mail your completed application package to:

Ms. Benita Litson
Diné College Land Grant Office
P.O. Box 7B
Tsaile, AZ 86556

Students selected to attend the Safeguarding Natural Heritage Program will be notified by X 2013.

