

## THE DETAILS

**WHO:** Native American, Alaskan Native, and Pacific Islander 10-12<sup>th</sup> Grade High School Students (*in small community groups of approximately 3-5 students*)

*Accepted students will travel with one adult chaperone from their community to and from the event.*

**WHAT:** Native Youth Community Adaptation and Leadership Congress

**WHEN:** July 9-15\*, 2017

**WHERE:** National Conservation Training Center (NCTC), Shepherdstown, West Virginia

<https://nctc.fws.gov/campus/>



**COST:** None

*All student travel to the Congress, lodging, and food costs at NCTC will be paid for by the Bureau of Indian Affairs and other federal agency partners.*

*\*Actual date of departure will depend on specific travel arrangements.*

# Native Youth Community Adaptation and Leadership Congress

**July 9-15, 2017**

**National Conservation Training Center,  
Shepherdstown, West Virginia**



**Applications are now being accepted!**

*Student enrollment from each community may be limited.*

**Application Deadline: April 7, 2017**

See attached Application Form

Join students from across the country to discuss community adaptation and related environmental issues impacting Native peoples. The mission of the Native Youth Community Adaptation and Leadership Congress is to develop future conservation leaders with the skills, knowledge, and tools to address environmental change and conservation challenges to better serve their schools and home communities.

*"It really warms my heart knowing that other people, especially young people, care as much about the climate and Mother Earth as I do. It made me realize that a lot of other people care about this Earth too, that I am not alone in this challenge, that there are a lot more Earth Warriors and Earth Guardians out there. It makes me happy to see that."*

-Esau Sinnok, 2016 Congress

# Native Youth Community Adaptation and Leadership Congress

**July 9 – July 15\* , 2017**

**National Conservation Training Center, Shepherdstown, West Virginia**

**To: School Principals, Teachers, Youth Program Leaders, and Community Members:**

The Native Youth Community Adaptation and Leadership Congress (NYCALC) is a week-long student environmental conference for approximately 100 Native American, Alaskan Native, and Pacific Islander high school students interested in environmental issues, natural resource conservation, community leadership, and public service. We aim to achieve a broad representation of Native communities across the country, so student enrollment from each community is competitive and may be limited (to approximately 3-5 students per community). This event is sponsored by the Bureau of Indian Affairs, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, National Park Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service, U.S. Geological Survey, Environmental Protection Agency, Bureau of Land Management, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, National Aeronautics and Space Administration, and other federal partners.

Students competitively selected via the attached application will be admitted as a school or community group of approximately 3-5 current 10-12<sup>th</sup> grade students with 1 adult mentor per group, who will serve as their event travel chaperone and team leader during the entire event. Travel to and from the event, conference lodging, and meals for both students and adult mentors will be paid for by the federal agency partners.

**Please distribute the attached application materials to your most engaged and mature students, especially those demonstrating aptitudes in Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics, Environmental Studies, Traditional Ecological Knowledge, Community Health, and Community Leadership, with the ultimate goal being groups of about 3-5 student leaders to represent their school or community accompanied by an adult mentor.**

*\*Actual date of departure will depend on specific travel arrangements.*

# Native Youth Community Adaptation and Leadership Congress (NYCALC)

**July 9 – July 15\* , 2017**

**National Conservation Training Center, Shepherdstown, West Virginia**

## Goal of the NYCALC

The goal is to foster an inclusive, meaningful, educational event for aspiring Native youth leaders interested in addressing environmental issues facing Native American, Alaskan Native, and Pacific Islander communities. The Congress will include a diverse mix of Native communities from various geographic locations, including both urban and rural students. The Congress teaches students about environmental change and conservation while providing them with leadership skills for addressing conservation issues within their own Native communities.

## Benefits of Attending

- Opportunity for students to actively participate with a larger group of like-minded youth on issues related to environmental change and natural resource conservation in their home communities.
- A chance to identify key environmental issues facing Native youth and their communities—involvement inspires change!
- Opportunity to learn and demonstrate leadership and communication skills by engaging with peers across different communities about environmental change.
- Grant funding available after the Congress for conservation-related student projects in their own communities.

## Questions?

If you have any questions about the program or the application process, please contact the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service via e-mail at [nctc\\_deo\\_programs@fws.gov](mailto:nctc_deo_programs@fws.gov) or by phone at 304-876-7772 or 304-876-7388.

*\*Actual date of departure will depend on specific travel arrangements.*

# Student Application Form

Please fill out all fields completely **either typed or neatly printed in blue or black ink.**

Submit completed applications:

- Via e-mail to: [nctc\\_deo\\_programs@fws.gov](mailto:nctc_deo_programs@fws.gov)
- Via fax to: 304-876-7231
- If necessary, applications may be mailed to:  
NCTC, Division of Education and Outreach,  
698 Conservation Way,  
Shepherdstown, WV 25443

**Note:** Mail-in applications must be postmarked before the application deadline.

**Application Deadline: Friday, April 7, 2017**

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**Mentor Contact Information** *(to be completed by the adult who will act as the chaperone for the event)*

Mentor First Name:

Mentor Last Name:

Mentor Address:

Street Address

City

State

Zip Code

Mentor Contact Phone Number:

Mentor Alternate Phone Number:

Mentor Contact E-mail address:

Mentor relationship (Choose one):

Principal

Youth leader

Teacher

Family member

Guidance counselor

Other:

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## Student Contact Information

First Name:

Last Name:

Home Address:

Street Address

City

State

Zip Code

Birth date (Month, Day, Year; MM/DD/YYYY):

Contact Phone Number:

Home

Cell

Contact E-mail address (required):

Tribal/Community Affiliation:

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## School Information

School (Name):

School Address:

Street Address

City

State

Zip Code

Your Current Grade in School (Choose one)\*:

10    11    12

*\*To be eligible, you should be a 10-12<sup>th</sup> grade high school student*

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## **Additional Student Information:**

*Please fill out this section as completely as possible. If any activities you have participated in do not directly fit these categories, but could potentially strengthen your application, please describe them in detail and explain how they are significant.*

Extracurricular activities, school clubs or organizations you currently participate or have previously participated in:

Community organizations you are/have been a part of:

Volunteer experience:

Any accomplishments or awards you have received:

Other:

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## Application Questions

*Please answer each of the following questions in 500 words or less. Answers to application questions must be student generated and individually written. Plagiarism will not be tolerated and will result in disqualification from consideration for the Congress.*

1. Identify and explain 3 environmental issues in detail that are impacting your home/tribal community. Describe how you think they are being addressed or not.

2. As a native youth leader, how can you help lead your community in adapting to a changing environment?

### Questions?

If you have any questions about the program or the application process, please contact the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service via e-mail: [nctc\\_deo\\_programs@fws.gov](mailto:nctc_deo_programs@fws.gov) or by phone: 304-876-7772 or 304-876-7388.