

June 20-23, 2006

Learning in the Woods

UNIVERSITY
OF NEVADA
•Reno

A science experience for Secondary Education Teachers and Latino/a students

sponsored by the National Science Foundation

Do you know any school teachers at the secondary education level? Do you know any Latino/a students in grades 7 to 12? If you answered "yes" at least once, you could help spread the word about a new outreach program available at no cost for Hispanic students and their teachers in summer 2006.

The Learning in the Woods Science Experience is organized by the Department of Geography at the University of Nevada, Reno in cooperation with the Geographic Alliance in Nevada, and with the financial support of the Paleoclimate Program in the Division of Atmospheric Sciences at the National Science Foundation. The objective of the course is to introduce grade 7-12 teachers and Latino/a students to the science of climate change by exploring the connections that exist between tree growth and climate. Participation is limited to 10 teachers and 20 students (two students per teacher). The course has been approved by the Nevada Department of Education for 1.5 in-service credits.

All expenses are covered by a National Science Foundation grant. Cost of travel to and from UNR, lodging, meals, registration, and graduate course fees will be fully refunded.

Application deadline: May 1, 2006.

Credits: 1 graduate credit, GEOG 691 (optional)
When: June 20-23, 2006; Tues., 8 a.m.-4 p.m.; Wed., 8 a.m.-4 p.m.; Thurs., 9 a.m.-11 p.m.; Fri., 9 a.m.-noon
Instr: Franco Biondi, Ph.D. Associate Professor, UNR
Fee: A \$20 fully refundable fee is due with registration; course fees and tuition paid by National Science Foundation grant
Reg. #: AS 102 Section 701
Where: Mackay Science Building, Room 301; University Quad; Fleischmann Planetarium and Science Center; plus off-campus field trip

Program Overview

The program is organized in two parts: the first (two days) involves only teachers who are introduced to basic scientific concepts on tree growth and climate, participate in field work activities, and discuss how scientific results can be incorporated in a lesson plan. The second (two days) involves both teachers and students, and offers laboratory experiences, discussions and demonstrations. Hands-on practice with measuring and mapping instruments is provided in both parts of the program. Laboratory activities culminate with the use of binocular stereo zoom microscopes and specialized equipment for measuring tree-ring width.

Included in the program are a tour of the University of Nevada, Reno campus, a visit to the Fleischmann Planetarium and Science Center, and a group picture.

Application Procedure

Selection will be on a first-come first-served basis. After receiving 10 completed applications, additional applicants will be placed on a waiting list. The application process includes two steps:

STEP I: Teachers apply by sending (a) a letter stating their interest in the program; (b) the names and addresses of four Latino/a students who should be considered for participation; and (c) a \$20 application fee, which will be fully returned if the teacher attends the course or if he or she is not selected. The fee will not be returned if a teacher is selected but then cancels his or her participation and cannot be replaced before the course.

STEP II: The course organizers select two of the four Latino/a students, contact them directly, and invite them to participate. If one or both cannot attend the course, the invitation is extended to one or both of the other students. If none of the four students accepts the invitation, the teacher will be asked to provide additional names. Students' parents will be given bilingual information on the course, and all students' expenses will be covered. An additional \$100 reimbursement will be sent to each student after he or she attends the course.

Both steps must be completed by May 1st. Late applications can be accepted if the course is not already full.

Graduate Credit

Teachers who desire graduate credit but have not established status with the university's Graduate School must complete a Graduate Special Application form. The one-time application fee to register for this course, and the cost of one graduate-level credit will be paid by the National Science Foundation grant. Only teachers who registered for graduate credit receive a grade.

Course Grade

Course grades for ALL academic credit courses are posted to transcripts only at the end of each semester.

For Additional Information

For more information, a complete program outline or questions about program content, contact Dr. Franco Biondi at (775) 784-6921, email: fbiondi@unr.edu, or visit the program website at <http://woods.geography.unr.edu/learning>

Space is limited —apply today!