COLORADO ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES AND CLIMATE INSTITUTE: Fire, Water, Forests!

Are you an educator working with rising 8th, 9th, 10th or 11th graders? Do you work with students interested in science, politics, journalism, engineering, and/or the arts? Do you want to help connect your students to other students in Colorado and around the world?

The Colorado Environmental Sciences and Climate Institute (ESCI) is a new program to support educators and students to develop projects related to the environment that have real impact on our community and state. Students will have the opportunity to launch their own project or form a team to do one collectively.

ESCI is a year-long program and collaboration between Lyra Colorado, Fort Lewis College, and six Colorado school districts (Archuleta, Bayfield, Durango, Ignacio, Lake County, and Silverton). If you are an educator from another school district who is interested in participating, please contact info@lyracolorado.org. The program starts with an intensive four-day Institute at Fort Lewis College in Durango.

We are seeking educators willing to commit to support planning and implementation for the Summer Institute and for the year-long program:

- Provide feedback in planning and debriefing the Summer Institute.
- Attend and support the Summer Institute, August 3-6, 2020.
- Support your student project once a month during the school year.
- Meet quarterly with all participating educators via conference call to provide program feedback.

Educators will receive a $1,000 stipend for their year-long commitment.

To participate in the program, navigate to our online application (lyracolorado.org). Applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis throughout May.
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To support you, ESCI will invest in student-driven learning opportunities for the summer and throughout the school year. The Institute will support academic exploration by examining the power that fire and water has to shape our forests, farms, and towns. We will explore how snow and rain create healthy rivers and lakes. We will ask how much of our forests were burned by the huge 416 Fire of 2018. We will examine how well our forests are recovering. And, we will investigate how people try to use or control the forces of fire and water. Our hands-on explorations will help students learn how to ask questions about our environment and start to answer those questions through student environmental projects. These learning opportunities will bridge academics, career exploration and student leadership development.

Summer Institute Details

Location:
Fort Lewis College in Durango, CO plus local and regional trips.

Program Cost:
This is a pilot program for students in SW Colorado and Lake County. There is no cost for students participating, but there is the expectation that students will complete the year-long program, submit their project, and help the organizers by giving feedback on how the program can be improved going forward. There may be additional slots for students if there is higher demand.

Time and Dates:
Starts at 12:00 pm on August 3, and ends at 12:00 pm on August 6.

*We are working closely with school district and college administration to ensure a program that adheres to all public health guidelines. We are ensuring plans are in place for in-person, virtual or a combination of learning for the Summer Institute as well as year-long program.

Academics
Students will learn about the environment and climate through the lens of agriculture, forestry, tourism, fire science, watershed and natural resource management, permaculture, sustainability, education, economics, communications, and media.

Career Exploration
Students will meet with local and regional industry businesses and nonprofits to learn about career and internship opportunities in various fields and industries.

Student Leadership Development
Students will learn and practice the leadership skills and tools needed to make change in your community and state.

Parents, Guardians, Teachers, Principals and Superintendents:
If you are interested in having any of your students participate, ESCI will stipend teachers to work with students in their districts/schools. This stipend will cover the cost of planning during the spring of 2020 and attending the Summer Institute.

Student applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis throughout May and can be found at lyracolorado.org. If you are an educator interested in participating, please reach out indicating your interest to info@lyracolorado.org. More information is available at lyracolorado.org.