



NORTH CASCADES INSTITUTE

810 State Route 20, Sedro-Woolley, WA 98284
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Make a Difference by Joining the 2010 Cascades Climate Challenge!

WHO: High school students from selected areas in Oregon and Washington states (Seattle; Walla Walla – Pendleton; Lower Columbia; and Wenatchee - Yakima) who are interested in learning about climate change and leading other students in climate change service projects.

WHAT: Spend three weeks in July or August in the North Cascades gathering firsthand information about climate change. You will live outside, camping and traveling through the park on foot and by boat. In September and October you will work with teachers, other Cascades Climate Challenge team members and partners from your local public lands agencies (such as National Parks and Forests) to teach climate change awareness to elementary school students and lead them in a service project in your hometown. In November you will be encouraged to attend a youth leadership conference in the North Cascades to share your experience with other youth who are becoming leaders in their own communities.

WHERE: North Cascades National Park is in the northwest corner of Washington State, descending south from the Canadian border. The service projects will take place in your local community.

WHEN: Depending upon which session you attend, the field portion of the program runs from June 29 – July 19, 2010 *or* July 28 – August 17, 2010. The service projects will happen in the fall (September – November) and the youth leadership conference is November 12 – 14, 2010.

WHY: Gain valuable training and experience in science and leadership, meet other students from across the Pacific Northwest, have an incredible experience in the North Cascades and give back to your community.

Note: the 2010 program will be different than the 2009 pilot program. To see videos from the 2009 students go to: <http://www.ncascades.org/multimedia/pcc/index.html>

THE PROGRAM (What you will do):

1) FIELD EXPERIENCE:

You will be camping and living in rustic accommodations for 21 days. Activities include learning to camp, hiking to glaciers, participating in service projects, teaching other students, interviewing scientists and resource managers and attending classroom lessons. You'll study climate science, gain leadership skills, explore the North Cascades and practice presenting to others. Food, lodging, study materials, transportation to and from the Seattle airport, camping gear (and appropriate clothing if needed) will be provided at no charge. A modest travel stipend (based upon distance) is available for students who live outside of the Seattle Metro area.

2) COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP:

After your field experience in the North Cascades, you will return to your home community and work with the other Cascades Climate Challenge team members, partners from your local public lands agencies and teachers in your region to plan and execute a service project. Most service projects will involve teaching lessons in climate change to local elementary school students and then leading them in a service project outside.

3) YOUTH LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE:

In November a youth leadership conference will be held in the North Cascades. You will be asked to apply for a spot at the conference and participate by talking about your experience in the Cascades Climate Challenge. If you attend, you will get to meet other youth who are learning to become leaders in their communities.

INTERESTED?

The application for the 2010 Cascades Climate Challenge is below. You can apply as an individual or as a group. One application should be submitted per individual or group. Groups can have up to three members. All group members must be in high school, have a solid academic record, and be able to demonstrate how they will benefit from and contribute to the Cascades Climate Challenge experience.

APPLICANTS / CANDIDATES (Who can apply):

* Applicants must be a resident of (or attend school in) the states of Oregon or Washington in one of the target areas:

1. Lower Columbia region (Washington: Clark, Cowlitz, and Wahkiakum Counties; Oregon: Clatsop County)
2. Greater Seattle metropolitan area (Washington: King, Kitsap and Pierce Counties)
3. Wenatchee / Yakima area (Washington: Chelan, Douglas, Kittitas and Yakima Counties)
4. Walla Walla / Pendleton area (Washington: Walla Walla or Columbia Counties; Oregon: Umatilla County)

* All applicants must be entering their sophomore, junior, or senior year in high school in fall of 2010.

* Applicants must be interested in and physically able to spend time camping and hiking during their park experience.

* A teacher or adult mentor must be identified who will aid the applicant in developing a local service project.

APPLICATIONS

The application must be completed by the youth applying. In addition to answering essay questions, applicants must include a letter of support from a teacher or community partner who will mentor your group for the service project, a separate letter of recommendation from another teacher who will attest to their ability and interest, a consent form and copies of your most recent report card or transcript.

CRITERIA & JUDGING

* Youth must demonstrate a readiness to benefit from and contribute to the program.

* Youth must demonstrate good leadership ability and a strong academic record (GPA, honors, etc.)

* Youth must demonstrate a strong interest in learning about public lands and climate change and be interested in benefitting their community with that experience.

* Students will be judged based on the information provided on their application form against the criteria indicated above (i.e., strong academic record; interest in climate change and public lands; demonstration of ability to engage their community).

* Top candidates and teams will be interviewed by phone. A second round of selection will commence once we have been able to contact all teams.

* Students will be notified of first-round selection by **April 30, 2010**.

Applications are now being accepted on a rolling basis- we will notify all applicants once the spots have been filled.

SUBMISSIONS (Turning it all in):

Applications must be submitted as one packet including:

- Info sheet for each team member
- Answers to essay questions
- A signed consent form from each team member's parent or legal guardian
- Copies of the most recent report cards or transcripts
- Two letters of recommendation, one from a teacher and one from an adult mentor

Packets can be submitted by postal mail, electronically or by fax. They are due ~~April 20, 2010~~ as soon as possible to:

North Cascades Institute- *Cascades Climate Challenge*
810 State Route 20
Sedro Woolley, WA 98284

e-mail: nci@ncascades.org fax: 360-856-1934

Thank you for applying; we look forward to seeing your application!

Cascades Climate Challenge Application

Send to: North Cascades Institute- *Cascades Climate Challenge*
810 State Route 20
Sedro Woolley, WA 98284
nci@ncascades.org
fax: 360-856-1934

1) Information Form (separate form to be completed by each group member)

Student Name: _____

Group Name & number of members: _____

Street Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Home Telephone Number: _____ Gender: _____ (M or F)

Birthdate: _____ Age: _____

Grade Level Entering in Fall 2010: _____ (Must be Sophomore, Junior, Senior)

Name of Parents/Guardians: _____

Daytime Telephone of Parents/Guardians: _____

Parent's Email Address: _____

Student's Email Address: _____

Student's cell phone: _____

School Currently Attending: _____

School Street Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

School Telephone Number: _____

How did you hear about the *Cascades Climate Challenge*? _____

Which session are you able to attend? (Check both if you are able to attend both. If you are applying as a group, you should all attend the same session.)

_____ June 29 – July 19, 2010

_____ July 28 – August 17, 2010

2) Essay Questions (to be completed as a group)

Please answer the following questions on a separate sheet of paper. Prepare your answers as a group. Please print or type your responses. Each answer must be 250 words or less.

1. What will you / your group get out of spending three weeks in the North Cascades?

2. In your / your group's opinion, how is climate change affecting your community?
What can you do about it?

3. What type of contribution has you or your group made to the betterment of your community?

4. How do you / your group represent diverse youth?

5. List your group's top academic achievements (GPA, honors, etc.)?

6. What are the career aspirations of those in your group (college, profession, etc.)?

3) Letter of Recommendation – TEACHER / MENTOR (to be completed for an individual or group)

APPLICANTS: FILL THIS BOX OUT BEFORE SUBMITTING IT TO YOUR MENTOR/ TEACHER		
Name of Nominee: _____		
School Name: _____		
City: _____	State: _____	Zip: _____
Name of Teacher Completing This Form: _____		
Relationship to Nominee: _____		Academic Area: _____

Daytime Telephone Number: _____ Email Address: _____

Street Address (Work) _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Cascades Climate Challenge

This program selects young, diverse leaders who have excelled in school and want to make their community and the world a better place. The program is designed to immerse them in learning about climate change and practice their leadership skills. They are to benefit from that experience and, in turn, use that experience to benefit their community and local parks. They will inspire other young people to do the same.

You have been asked to provide mentorship to the student applicant(s). Your recommendation should include details about your ability and willingness to guide the youth applying through the program locally. You will be asked to help the students prepare for their trip to the North Cascades as well as plan and implement their service project once they have returned home at the end of the summer. The teacher mentor will help the students connect with an elementary school and engage them in a climate change-focused service project.

Please type your responses. Return this completed form along with your recommendation to the nominee. *It must be enclosed with the application form as part of the completed application packet.*

4) Letter of Recommendation – TEACHER
(to be completed for an individual or group)

APPLICANTS: FILL THIS BOX OUT BEFORE SUBMITTING IT TO YOUR MENTOR/ TEACHER
Name of Nominee: _____
School Name: _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
Name of Teacher Completing This Form: _____
Relationship to Nominee: _____ Academic Area: _____

Daytime Telephone Number: _____ Email Address: _____

Street Address (Work) _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Cascades Climate Challenge

This program selects young, diverse leaders who have excelled in school and want to make their community and the world a better place. The program is designed to immerse them in learning about climate change in public lands. They are to benefit from that experience and, in turn, use that experience to benefit their community and local parks. They will inspire other young people to do the same.

Your recommendation should include details about the students' ability to engage in the project as well as their interest.

Please type your responses. Return this completed form along with your recommendation to the nominee. *It must be enclosed with the application form as part of the completed application packet.*

5) Parental Consent Form (separate form to be completed by each group member)

I, ("GUARDIAN") _____ represent that I am the parent or legal guardian of ("MINOR") _____ who has been nominated in the *Cascades Climate Challenge* program ("Program").

I understand that if Minor is selected as a winner under the Program, Minor may be profiled in magazine articles to be published in 2011 and will also receive a trip to North Cascades National Park and be invited to attend a Youth Leadership Conference in the North Cascades in November of 2010. I further understand that Minor must be available to participate in the trips.

I hereby consent to allow Minor to be nominated and participate in the program.

Minor's Name: _____

Name of Parent/Legal Guardian: _____

Signature of Parent/Legal Guardian: _____ Date: _____

Parent/Legal Guardian's Street Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Home Telephone Number: _____

Other Telephone Number: _____

Email Address: _____