

Nevada State Certification in Environmental Education & Interpretation

Administered by
UNLV Public Lands Institute
Nevada Natural Resource Education Council

Endorsed by
Springs Preserve
Outside Las Vegas
Nevada State Parks
Sierra Nevada Journeys
Nevada Outdoor School
Clark County School District
Friends of Nevada Wilderness
Nevada Department of Wildlife
Nevada Department of Education
Las Vegas Natural History Museum
Southern Nevada Agency Partnership
Tahoe Environmental Research Center
National Park Service – Lake Mead NRA
National Park Service – Death Valley NP
Red Rock Canyon Interpretive Association
The Mirage Hotel Department of Animal Care
Bureau of Land Management – Las Vegas Field Office
Bureau of Land Management – Black Rock – High Rock NCA



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About the Certification Program

This comprehensive state program in Environmental Education & Interpretation (EE&I) is offered for educators, interpreters, and others working or volunteering in nature centers, museums, zoos, aquaria, schools, and other nature- and heritage-rich places. Upon the achievement of coursework and the internship, the participant will be awarded a Nevada State Certificate in Environmental Education & Interpretation.

The mission of the certification program is to incorporate best practices in Environmental Education and Interpretation (EE&I) and help define the EE&I profession and standards within the state of Nevada. Becoming a Certified EE&I Professional within the state of Nevada will foster the professional development of EE&I providers as individuals and as a professional community.

Why become certified?

Certification has a variety of benefits for individuals, organizations, and the field of EE&I. Individual educators throughout the nation often find that certification programs offered by their state serves as an important step in their professional development. In meeting high standards set by the program, candidates more fully master both the theory and practice of EE&I, making them more effective as professionals. The program will also foster a statewide network of professional educators.

For example, the Utah Society for Environmental Education has found that *organizations report that they find the certification program helpful in identifying qualified environmental educators. Though certification does not guarantee the competence of individuals in addressing specific environmental topics, certification does attest that environmental educators have met minimum standards regarding comprehension and experience within the field of EE.*

Given the huge industry that tourism represents, certification offers another opportunity in Nevada. There are a variety of tour operators that bring people to nature- and heritage-rich places. Tourists will be attracted to those tour operators that have hired certified interpreters to help connect them to these places in fun, meaningful ways.

Certification Process

Individuals seeking certification will be from a variety of backgrounds and careers. Therefore, an Admissions process has been established to help the Program Committee understand the goals of certification participants. Throughout the Admissions process, please feel free to contact the Program Committee if you have any questions about the certification program or Admissions process.

1. Begin the Admissions process to the Certification program by completing the enclosed application packet and submitting the paperwork to the Program Committee:

UNLV Public Lands Institute - Allyson Butler
Box 452040, 4505 S. Maryland Pkwy.
Las Vegas, NV 89154-2040
Allyson.butler@unlv.edu
Phone 702.895.5147 or 702.895.5097
Fax 702.895.5166

2. Receive verification from the certification Program Committee and then pay for the Certification program (details on how to pay will be sent with your confirmation of Admission from the Program Committee).
3. Attend and satisfactorily complete all courses.
4. Satisfactorily complete internship under guidance of the mentor.
5. Receive Nevada State Certification in Environmental Education & Interpretation (EE&I).

What will the certification courses be like?

The workshop format of these courses will emphasize student-centered learning experiences. To become certified, NEEI participants will complete the four courses that are described below. At the end of the coursework, those participants interested in certification will complete a supervised internship.

- I. Environmental Education: Conceptual Foundations, Issues, & Methods
- II. Environmental Literacy
- III. Planning, Implementing, and Fostering Learning in Environmental Education & Interpretation
- IV. Diverse Audiences in Environmental Education & Interpretation
- V. Internship

*Nevada State Certification in
Environmental Education & Interpretation*

Application for Admission

Last Name	First Name	MI
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Address

City	State	Zip
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Work #	Cell #	Home #
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Email Address

Current Place of Employment or Volunteer Organization

Address

City	State	Zip
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Job Title or Duties Performed

Are you 18 or older? _____ Yes _____ No

Please list previous degrees or certificates you have received:

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Admission Questions

Please answer the following questions on separate paper and attach to application. The responses should be short and concise.

1. What inspired you to want to join the EE&I community?
2. How will you be involved in the EE&I community after you obtain your certification?
3. Which of your strengths will help you succeed as a participant in the Nevada EE&I Certification Program? As an EE&I professional?