

Nevada State Certification in Environmental Education & Interpretation

Administered by
UNLV Public Lands Institute
on behalf of the Southern Nevada Agency Partnership

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
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



Funded by the Southern Nevada Agency Partnership and delivered by the UNLV Public Lands Institute on behalf of the Bureau of Land Management, National Park Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the U.S. Forest Service.

About the Certification Program

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

By participating in the program, participants will gain the knowledge, practical skills, and communication strategies to teach in nature and heritage rich places. Together with facilitators and mentors, participants will explore best practices for giving tours, teaching about wild things and wild places, facilitating learning experiences, leading activities, and promoting lifelong learning and environmental literacy.

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.

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.*

Recreation experiences and school field trips in the outdoors are an invaluable asset to healthy communities. The proposed national No Child Left Inside legislation gives local environmental education unprecedented momentum and significance. It is therefore more important than ever that our community partners meet a level of expertise and professionalism.

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. 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
4505 Maryland Pkwy. Box 2040
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 finalize registration by submitting payment through UNLV Public Lands Institute (allyson.butler@unlv.edu).
3. Attend and satisfactorily complete all courses (48 hours, see attached schedule) and associated homework.
4. Work with Program Committee for approval of the capstone site, program or project, and mentor.
5. Satisfactorily complete capstone under guidance of the mentor.
6. 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. Participants may take the courses individually or as part of the certificate program. To become certified, NEEI participants will complete the four courses that are described below. At the end of the coursework and associated homework, those participants interested in certification will complete a supervised capstone.

- I. EE&I: Conceptual Foundations, Issues, & Methods – 7 hours
- II. Planning, Implementing, and Fostering Learning in Environmental Education & Interpretation – 24 hours
- III. Diverse Audiences in Environmental Education & Interpretation – 8 hours
- IV. Environmental Literacy – 9 hours
- V. Capstone

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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?