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Native Explorers

About Native Explorers

If you are Native American, curious about vertebrate fossils (e.g., rhinos, horses and bone crushing dogs) and medicine and enjoy being in the great outdoors, this scientific expedition is for you. You may be eligible to earn three hours of college credit.

Activities begin on the OSU Center for Health Sciences campus in Tulsa and include exploring anatomy, comparing diseased and normal organs, preparing fossil specimens, reading topographical maps and learning how to use a compass and GPS units. You will also interact with physicians and medical students to learn more about healthy lifestyles and medicine.

These activities will be followed by a paleontological dig and cultural excursions to significant locations in Oklahoma and the surrounding states. Native traditions and culture will also be a part of this experience.

You work side-by-side with Native research scientists from OSU-CHS and the Sam Noble Oklahoma Museum of Natural History to learn paleontological techniques. Archeologists and biologists from the U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management will introduce you to protocols on the management of natural resources, the preservation and protection of historic sites and possible career opportunities and internships.

How to apply

Native Explorers takes place after classes have finished for the spring semester. Applications are due in April. Complete the application at www.nativeexplorers.org.

Requirements

- 18 years of age (minimum)
- Enrolled member of a federally recognized tribe
- Earned high school diploma or equivalent (e.g., GED), at time of participation in program
- Interest in learning, especially sciences and medicine
- Good academic background (grades and service). Grades will be considered but will not be a limiting factor for a successful applicant
- Active member of affiliated tribe (traditional). Individuals lacking this criteria but interested in learning traditional ways may be considered
- Letter of reference from an academic instructor
- Applicant is responsible for transportation to and from OSU-CHS
- Physician’s release form signed by licensed physician (for selected participants only)