



TERI – NCSTC Eco Next Investigation for Youth

Catalyzed and supported by National Council for Science & Technology Communication, DST, New Delhi

Background

Eco Eureka Training will be a journey of not only connecting nature and science to showcase how science can be used for the conservation of nature and the environment but also of self-exploration, understanding and leadership that we undertake where the goal is defined not by a destination but a belief in limitless possibilities of creating a harmonious world.

21st century is an era of experimentation- be it with respect to environment, agriculture, waste or energy. All these issues also have a far reaching impact, when mainstreamed with societal aspects of bringing about a positive change in the neighborhoods and surrounding. This is achievable only when the capacity building initiatives are planned with the right mix of pedagogies because imparting knowledge is an ever evolving concept, limiting not only to text books but beyond. Educators have to constantly try and test different permutations and combinations to make learning creative and attractive to students.

The right knowledge is an enabler for not only contributing to the development of well- informed citizens, but also leading towards an era where voices of young people will be heard. A look at the status of media clearly presents opportunities to broaden society's outlook and provide new technological skills and bring greater youth participation.

With this background, The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI) launches TERI- NCSTC Eco Next Investigation for Youth which is catalyzed and supported by National Council for Science & Technology, DST, New Delhi. The program aims to create a cadre of youth who are aware, innovative and are ready to create a difference for nature conservation, eco- restoration, nature based solutions, co- creation and innovation.

Objective

The project aims to look at science as a necessary means to mitigate and solve present and emerging environmental problems. However, the specific objectives are as follows:

- To provide a platform to the youth to learn concepts on nature conservation, eco- restoration, nature based solutions, co- creation and innovation.
- To hone leadership skills in youth, this will subsequently enable them to transform knowledge into action
- To instill a sense of responsibility and engage youth in environmental stewardship to play a pro- active role in addressing issues related to sustainable development
- To encourage use of media as a means of reaching out to the masses

Session and Highlights- TERI- NCSTC Eco Eureka Training 2018 - 19

The main stay of the project is the Eco Eureka Training which will focus on connecting nature and science in order to showcase the ways in which science can be used for the conservation of nature and the environment. A practical approach will be adopted to meet this objective by involving the students in a 5 day training programme and providing firsthand experience of various environment parameters. As part of the workshop, students will be encouraged to experiment with nature and explore nature based solutions. The following aspects will be touched upon:

- ✓ Expert session on connection with Nature where research groups will facilitate hands- on training to students on relevant environment issues such as waste, energy and agriculture.
- ✓ Nature based solutions: Participants will be encouraged to explore solutions on issues of environmental concern; local issues affecting the life of people will be discussed and deliberated upon. Discussions and brainstorming sessions will result in seeking solutions which will be innovative in nature.
- ✓ Lab visits: Lab visits will be done that will encourage students to inculcate scientific temper in order to solve some of the emerging ecological problems.
- ✓ TERI – NCSTC Eco Eureka Fellowship: Participants will be asked to develop project ideas, the best three ideas will be given a seed funding of Rs 15000 to implement their projects.
- ✓ Eco- stressed sites: Students will be exposed to eco- stressed sites which have been restored by scientists, government or communities. Local initiatives and case studies will be discussed.
- ✓ Youth Panel: A platform for young participants to voice their opinion on the above issues.
- ✓ Simulation Exercise, Group Activities and Presentations: Simulation Exercise based on the above issues, group activities and presentations will be organized for the participants.
- ✓ Opportunities for participants to enhance their leadership potential and establish networks will also be involved where students will be divided into groups and asked to work on specific issues of environmental concern. They will document the present situation and propose innovative solutions in the form of articles / blogs / videos. These stories will be shared across TERI and NCSTC networks for public awareness.

Participant Profile

- ✓ Undergraduate and Post graduate students between the age group of 18- 25 years from any recognized university and college are eligible to participate in the training programme
- ✓ Students from institutes in / near Delhi NCR, Bengaluru and Goa

For further information, please contact

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