

Young People Creating Hope Through Action

Jane Goodall's Roots & Shoots ignites young people from kindergarten through university to take action in their communities, supporting and celebrating them as they organize and implement projects that help people, other animals, and the environment. It's now active in 75 countries and all 50 U.S. states.

The main message of Roots & Shoots is that each of us makes an impact on the planet — every single day. And we have a choice what kind of impact we make. Older Roots & Shoots participants choose their own projects and work with great enthusiasm, while younger participants operate under the guidance of teachers or parents.

Roots & Shoots began in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania in 1991 when 12 Tanzanian high school students from eight schools expressed their concerns to Dr. Jane. Why wasn't the government prosecuting poachers for killing animals in national parks, or the dynamite fishermen destroying coral reefs? What could be done for children in need and stray dogs? After much discussion, Dr. Jane suggested they had the power to solve these problems. They returned to their schools, recruited like-minded students, and gathered for a larger meeting — at which Roots & Shoots was born.

“Young people, when they understand the problems, are empowered to take action. When we listen to their voices (they) actually are changing the world and making it better for people, for animals, and for the environment.”

DR. JANE GOODALL, DBE | Founder, Jane Goodall Institute, UN Messenger of Peace

By the Numbers



835

Roots & Shoots projects launched in the US in 2024

36

members of Jane Goodall's Roots & Shoots Youth Council USA

11,500+

US educators enrolled in professional development through our online course

Roots & Shoots Impact

The Roots & Shoots program increases compassionate traits like empathy and critical thinking through project-based and social-emotional learning, which grows vital skills. A study by the University of Mississippi showed that through Roots & Shoots, youth participate more in community service, grow compassion and self-efficacy, and increase interpersonal, problem-solving, and leadership skills. Every day, our program is creating a generation who make meaningful decisions for a better world.

A Singular Experience for Educators

The problems of today require a new approach and a special set of skills. Youth need to feel in control of their own narrative, lives, and ability to make a difference. Our program heightens students' interests and accelerates their learning to address local issues while discovering what matters most to them. By becoming a part of our Roots & Shoots global community of educators and mentors, individuals are inspired and supported with a variety of resources such as an online course (with more than 13 hours of training with Roots & Shoots staff, experts, and the late Dr. Jane Goodall), activities, lesson plans, curricula, and more so that they can be as effective as possible in engaging their students.

Youth are supported to create projects ranging from planting trees and growing community gardens to volunteering in soup kitchens and animal shelters, to raising money for the victims of hurricanes, working on eliminating plastic, and advocating for human rights and justice. Young people from across different identities — race, gender, sexuality, class, religion, ability, age — all connect and exchange ideas to grow respect and compassion for each other, other animals, and the natural world we share.

Recognized by the World Health Organization and the United Nations as an innovative and effective way of engaging youth, Roots & Shoots gives everyone a way to be themselves by being the change.

Best in Class Service Learning & Skill Building

Using a model that is aligned with best practices in service learning, youth in Roots & Shoots are empowered to take on the issues that most matter to them. Using our Roots & Shoots 4-Step Formula, youth from kindergarten to college are given the tools, support, network, and skills to explore problems in their communities, design projects to address them, and celebrate their impact. This model grows their sense of purpose and agency in the context of their community and world while increasing essential life and leadership skills.



Roots & Shoots Basecamps: Local Hubs of Positive Change

Basecamps are grown and nurtured by experienced coordinators. These hubs of activity are where changemakers gather to collaborate and network, gain inspiration on community service projects, create positive change in their communities, and raise awareness for Roots & Shoots — inspiring others to join the movement!

Atlanta, GA

Chicago, IL

Los Angeles, CA

Portland, OR

Puerto Rico

San Francisco Bay Area, CA

Tampa Bay, FL

and more coming soon!