



# YOUR SUPPORT IN ACTION SUMMER 2025



Every individual has a role to play.  
Every individual makes a difference.



## Jane Goodall's Roots & Shoots





# THANK YOU

Every day, I witness young people choosing action over apathy. I see them planting trees, removing invasive species, organizing community cleanups, and even refurbishing computers to bridge the digital divide. Behind every one of these efforts is someone like you — someone who believes in their potential.

As Dr. Jane Goodall says, “When young people understand the problems and we truly listen to their voices, they begin changing the world.” You make that possible. Your support sends a powerful message to youth: their ideas matter, their voices deserve to be heard, and their actions can shape a better future.

Roots & Shoots is more than a program — it’s a global movement rooted in hope, compassion, and the belief that change begins with each of us. And because of you, this movement is thriving. I am deeply grateful for your partnership and your generosity. You’re not just supporting service projects; you’re helping build a more just and sustainable world.

With gratitude,



**Mary Ford**  
Vice President,  
Roots & Shoots USA

## Your Impact By Numbers

January – July 2025

965

new members  
joined



243

new projects  
started



83

Roots & Shoots  
Project Grants  
awarded



2,225

people participated  
in Roots & Shoots  
online course



45,586

people reached  
through Basecamps  
and national  
outreach





# National Updates

## A New Generation Rises: 2025 RSYC Summit

In June, San Francisco welcomed 27 young changemakers from across the U.S. for the annual summit of Jane Goodall's Roots & Shoots Youth Council (RSYC). It was an energizing five days of service, storytelling, and collaboration. These inspiring high school and college students are a guiding force for the U.S. Roots & Shoots program. These young people are using their voices and passion to create meaningful change in their own communities and beyond.

During this year's summit, Salesforce hosted the council members as they presented their service projects at the iconic Salesforce Tower. Their projects focus on topics ranging from sustainable economies to immigrant rights to human-wildlife coexistence. They also heard from inspiring guest speakers including ocean advocate Bodhi Patil (a Roots & Shoots alumnus) and youth leaders from the Heirs to Our Ocean organization. Guests and council members led sessions on conservation photography, ocean health, cultural competency, and citizen science.

The council also spread out across the city to provide hands-on service — cleaning up litter with Refuse Refuse SF, preparing meals for unhoused neighbors with GLIDE, and building and painting materials at the Children's Creativity Museum. They also visited the Marine Mammal Center to learn about marine rehabilitation and spotted a humpback whale while sailing on the bay.

Thanks to your support, the Jane Goodall Institute is nurturing the next generation of compassionate leaders. And they are not waiting to lead; they are already changing the world.



**A big thank you to Joe Tatelbaum and Grace Wang, Delta Air Lines, and Macy's for making this RSYC Summit possible!**



# Lifting Youth Voices at DC Climate Week

At the inaugural DC Climate Week, Jane Goodall Institute's Vice President of Roots & Shoots, Mary Ford, took the stage to spotlight youth leadership in climate action. She shared the story of how Roots & Shoots began and how its impact has grown thanks to the passion and dedication of young people around the world. Mary's session featured inspiring voices including Elsa Mengistu of Black Girl Environmentalist and Lucy Westlake, the youngest American woman to summit Everest. Together, they offered powerful proof that youth leadership is a catalyst for change.

**“Our job isn't to empower youth — they already have power. It's to support, amplify, and embolden them.”**

— Mary Ford,  
Vice President of Roots & Shoots USA





# Basecamp Spotlight

## Local Youth Making a Powerful Impact

Across the country, young changemakers are leading the way through Roots & Shoots USA Basecamps. These local hubs, supported by Jane Goodall Institute staff and volunteers, bring students together to design and carry out meaningful service projects that help people, other animals, and the environment. From working at a museum in Atlanta to presenting environmental solutions to Dr. Jane Goodall herself in Portland, our Basecamps are supporting youth by giving them the mentorship, community connections, tools and resources they need to turn their ideas into action.



## Portland

Our Portland Basecamp led an inspiring event where students from Jane Goodall Environmental Middle School and 13 other Oregon schools proudly presented their environmental projects to Dr. Jane Goodall herself. Their work showcased bold ideas and deep commitment to environmental protection and restoration.



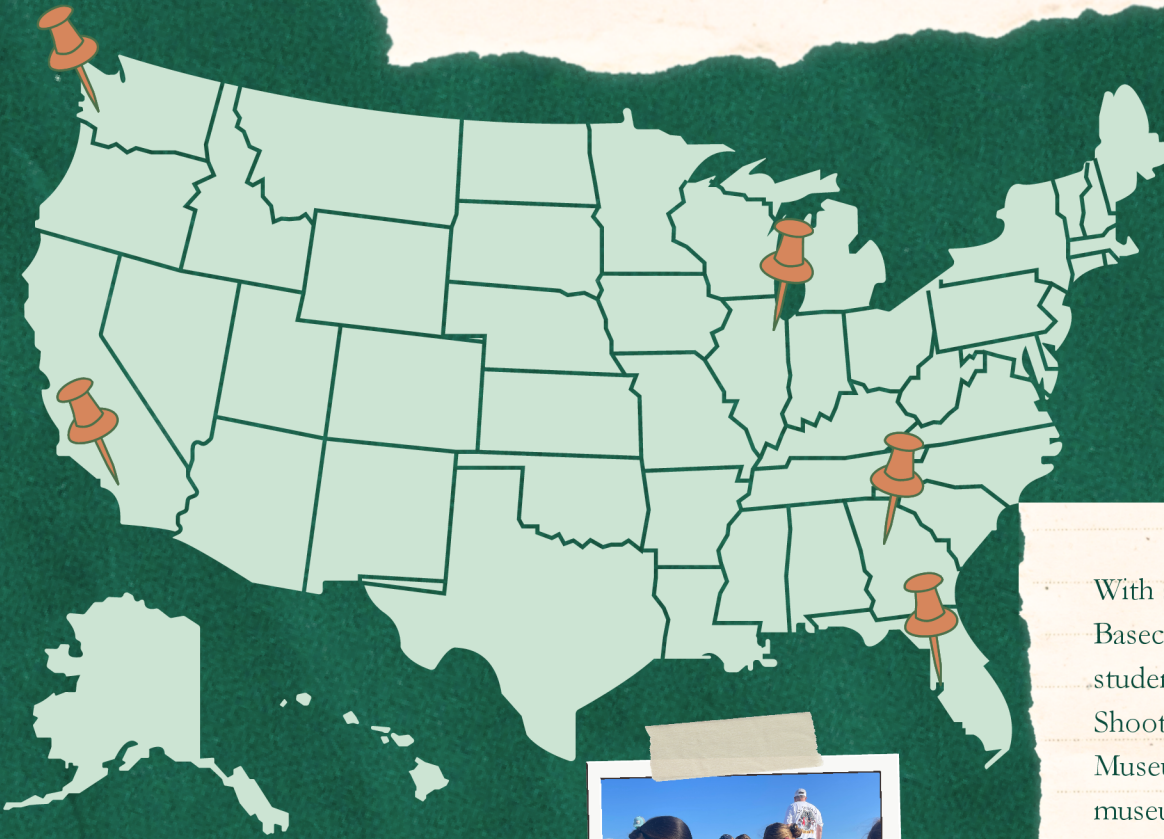
## Los Angeles

This past spring, the Los Angeles Basecamp helped host a free event with Dr. Jane Goodall at Pasadena High School, where she spoke to 1,500 students and community members who had been affected by wildfire. Jane offered a message of hope and resilience, and the event was a moving tribute to the firefighters, animal rescue organizations, and others who showed incredible courage and compassion. She reminded us that out of tragedy can come unity — and that each of us can make a meaningful difference in the face of challenges.



**Chicago**

Our Chicago Basecamp supported a Roots & Shoots project bringing nature writing to underserved schools on the South Side of Chicago. Led by an award-winning children’s author, the project reached 480 students from Pre-K to 8th grade, providing free classroom visits, journals, and pencils. Together, students explored local parks and gardens — many for the first time — using all five senses to observe the natural world and develop their voices as writers and citizen scientists.



**Atlanta**

With support from our Atlanta Basecamp, middle school students from the Roots & Shoots group at Fernbank Museum deep-cleaned the museum’s sensory wall — an interactive feature that helps visitors explore and learn about nature through touch. This hands-on project was part of an ongoing partnership with Fernbank to engage youth in service. Guided by interns from Georgia State and Emory University, the group is making public spaces more inclusive.



**Tampa Bay**

In April, the Tampa Bay Basecamp celebrated Earth Month with an incredible lineup of community-driven conservation projects. From planting 3,000 sea oats to stabilize shorelines, to building vertical oyster gardens and hosting upcycled art shows, their efforts inspired and educated. Volunteers also removed invasive species, cleaned up local habitats, and screened environmental films — showing what’s possible when youth and community come together to care for our planet.

# Your Dollars at Work

Thanks to your support, Roots & Shoots youth are healing communities and protecting our planet. Your contributions don't just fund projects — they inspire young people to develop compassion, agency, and hope.



**Meet RSYC Member, Christian**

Christian is a passionate youth leader turning his love for the environment and volunteering into real-world impact. As part of the Los Angeles Basecamp Council and founder of his high school's Roots & Shoots group, Christian rallies students for trash cleanups, river restoration, and community gardening, and is now launching a school-wide composting initiative. He also created an after-school program to teach elementary students why the environment matters and is expanding it to include hands-on art projects this year. Wherever he goes, Christian leads with heart, action, and a vision for a better world for everyone.



**Closing the Digital Divide**

At just 15 years old, Roots & Shoots member Dylan noticed two major issues in his Hoboken, NJ community: old electronics were going to waste, while many people lacked access to the internet and digital tools.

He responded by launching Computers 4 People, a nonprofit that refurbishes donated computers and distributes them to individuals in need, including those who are low-income, elderly, formerly incarcerated, refugees, or without stable housing.

With the help of high school and college volunteers trained to repair and distribute the devices, Dylan has kept more than 4,100 computers out of landfills and put them into the hands of people who need them most. With your support, Dylan received a Roots & Shoots Project Grant to purchase computer parts and fuel his growing team of volunteer technicians.

**Thanks to Dylan's leadership and generosity of supporters like you, more people have the tools to learn, connect, and thrive in the digital age.**



**We couldn't have done it without  
your generous support. Thank you.**

**A special thank you to our partners below for their vital support.**

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Seedlings Foundation, Select Equity Group Foundation,  
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