

YOUR SUPPORT IN ACTION

WINTER 2025

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



Jane Goodall's
Roots & Shoots
USA





Every day, I am reminded of why Roots & Shoots matters so much right now. At the heart of this movement is a belief that young people have the insight, compassion, and determination to shape a better future for people, other animals, and the planet we share.

Dr. Jane Goodall articulated this belief beautifully when she said, “There is a powerful force unleashed when young people resolve to make a change.” We see that force across Roots & Shoots — in classrooms, communities, neighborhoods and beyond — where young people are turning concern into meaningful action.

Roots & Shoots was built to grow steadily, grounded in care and connection. The stories in this newsletter highlight young leaders, adult mentors, educators, and communities who are nurturing that growth and carrying this work forward in thoughtful and locally rooted ways.

Jane’s vision continues through every young person who steps forward to make a difference. Thank you for standing with them and for investing in Roots & Shoots as this movement continues to grow with purpose and hope.

With gratitude,



Mary Ford
Vice President,
Roots & Shoots USA

Your Impact By Numbers

January – December 2025
Roots & Shoots USA



2,411

new members
joined

64

new groups
formed



522

new projects
started

90

Roots & Shoots
Project Grants
awarded



5,233

people participated
in Roots & Shoots
online course

21,135

people subscribed
to the weekly
newsletter



60,085

people reached
through Basecamps
and national
outreach





National Updates

Youth Advancing Climate Action

At the end of 2025, three members of the Roots & Shoots Youth Council USA received grants to organize climate summits in their home states.

These events brought together peers, educators, and community members to learn, connect, and take action.

In New Jersey, Carolyn designed a summit rooted in local experience by bringing together students to explore environmental issues close to home. Participants presented community recycling guidelines and shared concerns about nearby construction proposals affecting their environment. The day closed with hands-on creativity and celebrating collective action through upcycling, as students transformed reused materials into tie-dyed bags and shirts, handmade jewelry, and magazine collages.

In New York, Oona hosted the second annual Westchester Youth Climate Summit, welcoming nearly 100 students from more than 25 high schools across Westchester County. The summit blended learning and dialogue through a youth activist panel, a history of climate change, and interactive workshops on climate adaptation and mitigation. Students left with new knowledge, practical tools, and a stronger sense of collective purpose.

In Connecticut, Lauren organized her first climate summit at the Bruce Museum, drawing several hundred visitors. Families and students rotated through engaging stations such as seed bomb creation, binocular making, bird watching, and a recycling education game, making climate learning both accessible and fun.

These summits show what is possible when young people are supported and trusted to lead. With the support of JGI USA, youth are transforming concern about climate change into informed, community-driven action that is making a difference.



New Basecamp Launched: Puerto Rico

Momentum continues to build across the Roots & Shoots USA network even during a time of transition. Shortly after Dr. Jane Goodall passed, a new Roots & Shoots Basecamp was launched in Puerto Rico.

Each new Basecamp strengthens the network while honoring the cultures, histories, and voices of the communities it serves. Jane held deep respect for Indigenous peoples and local communities, believing that lasting change begins by listening, learning, and working together. That belief is reflected in the Puerto Rico Basecamp, which is grounded in local leadership and shaped by the island's cultural knowledge and traditions.

The launch creates new opportunities for young people across Puerto Rico to collaborate and care for the place they call home.



Even without Jane here to witness it, her values remain woven through this work, carried forward through the continued growth of Roots & Shoots Basecamps and the next generation of changemakers.



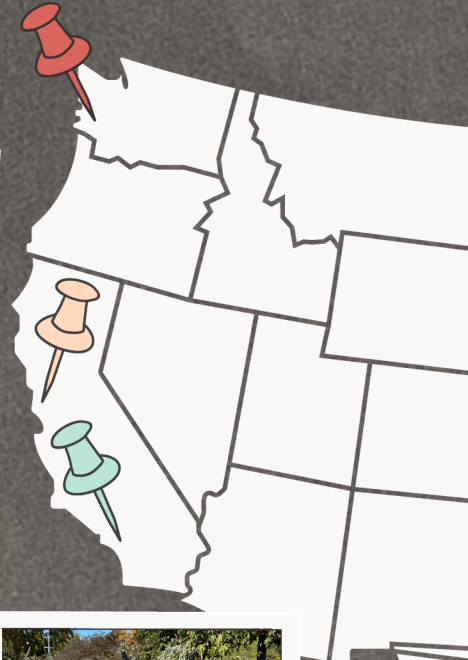
Basecamp Spotlight

Local Youth Making a Powerful Impact

The Portland Basecamp is working to extend the Roots & Shoots methodology through educators. At an annual teacher's workshop, Portland's Basecamp Coordinator Washo worked alongside local teachers to introduce Roots & Shoots tools and approaches for student-led, field-based learning. Educators explored community mapping, camera traps, and scientific data collection. These practical tools help students lead projects that connect classroom learning to real-world action.



Portland



**San Francisco
Bay Area**

Roots & Shoots USA is excited to welcome Zi Terrence as the new Bay Area Basecamp Coordinator. As an educator and justice advocate, Zi brings deep experience in community organizing and inclusive urban greening. He is preparing to launch the Justice Pathways Event Series, which will be a multi-month, youth-centered pilot program that introduces Bay Area youth to justice movements and pathways for action through hands-on learning, collaboration, and relationship building.



Los Angeles

With support from a Roots & Shoots Los Angeles Basecamp Project Grant, Roots & Shoots member Katelyn is expanding citizen science in her community. At the Los Angeles County Arboretum and Botanic Garden, Katelyn trained participants to use iNaturalist, a global tool that helps scientists track biodiversity and species populations. This project generated 230 observations in a single day and continues to grow, with more than 9,000 observations now contributing to long-term ecological research and conservation.



Chicago

Chicago's Roots & Shoots community gathered at Lincoln Park Zoo for a special event with Dr. Jane Goodall, held just weeks before her passing. Young people, educators, and community members came together at the Pepper Family Wildlife Center to share projects and ideas, reaffirming Jane's belief that every individual, at any age, has the power to create positive change.



Atlanta

Intergenerational collaboration is at the heart of the Atlanta Basecamp's partnership with the Fernbank Museum. College interns from Emory University and Georgia State University mentor middle school Roots & Shoots members as they plan and lead hands-on projects, from restoring a rain garden to testing local water quality.

"It was incredible to see students grow more confident and start speaking up over time," one intern shared. By connecting youth across age groups, the program builds a shared sense of responsibility for the local environment.



Tampa Bay

Indi-ED, an innovative school in the Tampa Bay region focusing on individualized, real-world learning, has been a longtime Roots & Shoots partner. Building on years of student-led environmental projects and with the help of the Roots & Shoots Tampa Bay Basecamp, students planted native Florida plants on campus to reduce flooding and support local wildlife. They then asked how this impact could grow beyond their school. With support of their teachers, students drafted a bill proposal promoting native plants and reduced concrete statewide and presented it to local legislators, demonstrating how youth learning can translate into meaningful civic action.



Puerto Rico

The newest Basecamp was launched in Puerto Rico with the leadership of Basecamp Coordinator Carla Montalvo. With a background in science and years of experience supporting youth-led environmental and social justice projects, Carla brings deep knowledge and strong community connections to this role. For over a decade, she has worked alongside young people across the island on projects ranging from wildlife monitoring to beach cleanups.

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 help young people to develop compassion, agency, and hope.



Meet RSYC Member, Adrija

Roots & Shoots Youth Council member Adrija brings science to life for students who are too often left out. Through her initiative, Science4Students, Adrija expands access to STEM for students with chronic illnesses and those in underfunded schools. Adrija leads one-on-one STEM lessons, including building a LEGO-dispensing robot with a middle school student, and hosts hands-on workshops.

She has also facilitated activities at a Boys & Girls Clubs of America STEM conference using the NASA iMAP outreach program, which introduces young people to space science, Earth observation, and real-world scientific data. As a molecular biology student, Adrija also mentors peers, researches neurodevelopment, and blends creativity and curiosity in every project she leads.



Planting Hope After the Storm

A year after Hurricane Helene, a Roots & Shoots group in Granite Falls, North Carolina stepped forward to help their community heal. When teacher Pamela noticed a local park had fallen into disrepair, she saw an opportunity to bring young people together to restore the shared space.

“The park has the potential to be something great,” Pamela shared. “A place for families to gather, celebrate birthdays, picnic, and exercise. It just needed some help.”

Pamela’s elementary students eagerly took on the challenge. They began by clearing poison ivy and other hazards, then used a Roots & Shoots Project Grant to purchase soil, native flowers, and vegetable plants. Together, they transformed the park into a space that is both beautiful and functional.

Living near the park gives the project special meaning for the students. They look forward to seeing neighbors return to the park and enjoy the space they helped restore.

“Our youth club is the future,” Pamela noted. With their care and commitment, the park is once again a place for connection, resilience, and hope to grow.



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

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