





YOUR SUPPORT IN ACTION

SUMMER 2026

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

Jane Goodall's
Roots & Shoots
USA















Thank you.

For 35 years, Roots & Shoots has shown us what is possible when young people recognize a need in their community and know they have the power to address it. As we celebrate this milestone, I am filled with gratitude for the donors and partners who continue to believe in young people and invest in their ideas.

Dr. Jane Goodall founded Roots & Shoots in 1991 with a small group of students who wanted to create change in their own communities. She listened to their ideas, encouraged them to act, and trusted them to find solutions. That belief in young people remains at the heart of Roots & Shoots today.

You'll see it in the stories throughout this report: young people across the U.S. restoring habitats, studying wildlife, bringing their communities together, and finding creative ways to address the issues that matter most to them. With access to project grants, mentors, tools, and a community that supports them, they turn ideas into actions — and inspire others to join them.

Your generosity makes these moments possible. It gives young people the chance to discover what they care about, and to see, firsthand, that they have the power to make a difference.

With gratitude,



Mary Ford
Vice President,
Roots & Shoots USA

Your Impact By Numbers

January – June 2026
Roots & Shoots USA

847
new members joined

30
new groups formed

150
new projects started

4,727
people participated in Roots & Shoots online course

994
people subscribed to the weekly newsletter

52,017
people reached through Basecamps and national outreach

National Updates

Hopping Into Action for Wildlife



Roots & Shoots USA and the Disney Conservation Fund launched the "Hop into the Animal Kingdom" Challenge to inspire young people to turn their compassion for wildlife into meaningful conservation action. Created in celebration of Disney and Pixar's movie Hoppers, the challenge built on the film's central message of seeing the world from an animal's perspective and understanding why every species matters. That message closely aligns with the Roots & Shoots approach of fostering empathy for animals and inspiring young people to protect the natural world.

Young people across the country responded to the challenge with creative solutions to local conservation issues. Roots & Shoots selected 10 winners, representing five regions of the United States, whose projects restored habitats, protected wildlife, reduced pollution, and engaged their communities in conservation. Each winner received a $500 Roots & Shoots Project Grant to expand their work and an invitation to a special Disney Conservation Fund youth summit at Walt Disney World, where they will connect with fellow young conservationists, share their projects, and learn from Disney's animal care experts.

The partnership also came to life at the Tampa Bay Basecamp's Hope in Action Summit, where more than 400 participants attended a private screening of Hoppers. The film sparked conversations about wildlife conservation and encouraged young people to think more deeply about their relationship with nature. Following the screening, attendees took part in hands-on workshops and connected with local conservation organizations.

A Global Symbol of Hope

Roots & Shoots USA members helped bring Dr. Jane Goodall's vision to life by contributing to a collaborative art installation that will welcome visitors to Dr. Jane's Dream: The Goodall Centre of Hope in Arusha, Tanzania. Scheduled to open at the end of 2027, this center will invite visitors to explore Jane's life and work through immersive exhibits.

To represent Roots & Shoots USA, young people painted individual leaves that came together to form a vibrant tree. Each leaf reflects the creativity and passion of young people, while the completed artwork symbolizes the strength of the Roots & Shoots movement united by a shared purpose.

When this banner is displayed alongside those from other Roots & Shoots chapters from around the world, visitors will see a powerful reminder that young people everywhere are taking action for people, other animals, and the environment.

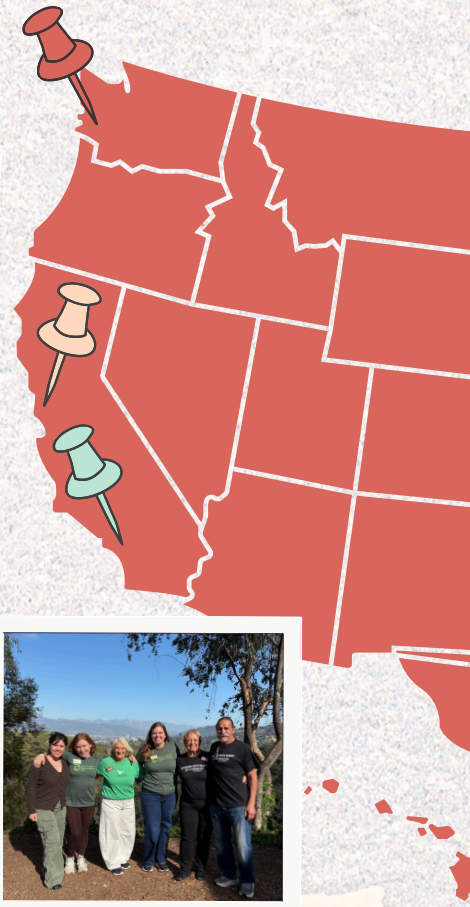




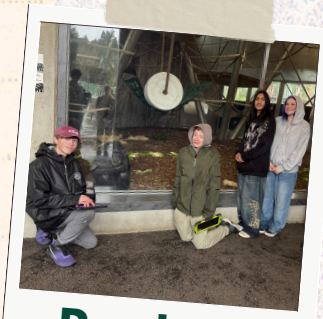
Basecamp Spotlight

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 the community together to design and carry out meaningful service projects that help people, other animals, and the environment.



Portland



Students from the Jane Goodall Environmental Middle School partnered with the Oregon Zoo to conduct hands-on chimpanzee behavioral research. Students created a standardized list of behaviors to observe and used ZooMonitor, a digital platform used by zoo professionals, to collect and analyze behavioral data. Over the course of several visits, students gathered data, learned about chimpanzee enrichment and conservation from zoo staff, and presented their findings to their school community and a panel of experts.

San Fransisco Bay Area



An urban tree planting event engaged more than 75 community members with the San Francisco Bay Area Basecamp and Friends of the Urban Forest to help create a greener and healthier city. Together, they planted climate-resilient urban trees, including bay laurel, southern magnolia, California lilac, and sweet pittosporum. These four trees were fondly named after significant figures in Dr. Jane Goodall's life — Mr. H., Tarzan, David Greybeard, and Rusty. The day expanded the city's urban forest and strengthened community connections, inspiring continued environmental stewardship.

Los Angeles

Twenty middle school and high school students from across L.A. came together for an event designed to build a supportive network of young changemakers. Throughout the day, students worked with local organizations to explore environmental challenges, learned how micro-forests can strengthen urban ecosystems, received peer leadership training from the L.A. Zoo, and developed community action plans using the Roots & Shoots Four-Step Formula. They returned home ready to inspire peers and lead projects that create lasting change.



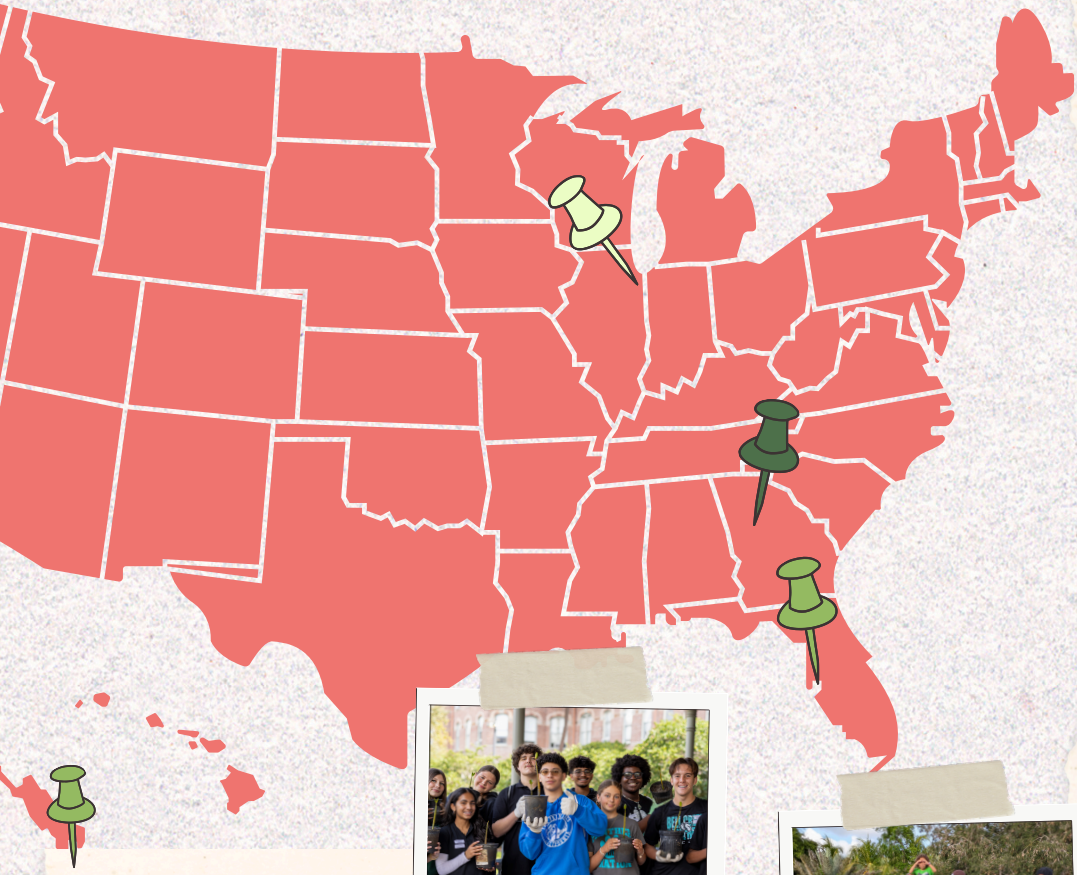
Chicago

A day of service made a lasting difference at Chicago's Montrose Beach. More than 30 volunteers collected over 700 pieces of litter weighing 32 pounds. By clearing plastic and other debris that can harm wildlife and pollute Lake Michigan, they helped protect migratory birds and other wildlife while creating a cleaner and healthier shoreline for the thousands of people who enjoy the beach each year.



Atlanta

The Atlanta Basecamp expanded its program at the Fernbank Museum of Natural History to reach fifth through eighth grade across metro Atlanta, welcoming 27 new students for the 2025-26 program. With mentorship from six college interns, participants used community mapping to identify a local environmental need and develop their own solution. Students chose to restore an area of the local Fernbank Forest affected by erosion by removing invasive plants and planting native species. Along the way, guest speakers deepened their connection to conservation. As one participant shared, "My experience here made me more motivated about science and learning about nature and plants."



Tampa Bay

The Tampa Bay Basecamp's two-day Hope in Action event brought together more than 400 students and other community members to celebrate a shared commitment to conservation and equip the next generation of Tampa Bay changemakers. Participants built advocacy and leadership skills through interactive workshops, explored environmental solutions alongside 40 local organizations, and heard from conservation leaders whose stories inspired action. They returned to their communities with new knowledge and practical ideas to lead conservation efforts.



Puerto Rico

More than 60 students, parents, and educators from across Puerto Rico gathered for a Roots & Shoots camping weekend to celebrate nature and honor Dr. Jane Goodall. Participants welcomed two new Roots & Shoots school clubs, planted native trees with cultural and ecological significance, and documented 27 bird species, including six found only in Puerto Rico. The weekend inspired new connections and deepened participants' commitments to protecting the island's unique ecosystems for generations to come.

RSYC MEMBER HIGHLIGHTS

Your Dollars at Work

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



Meet RSYC Member, William

William combined his passion for engineering and conservation to develop a new solution for marine habitat loss. In 2024, he earned third place in a national science competition for developing an AI Smart Artificial Reef, designed to monitor and support aquatic ecosystems.

William built on that innovation by creating Build a Reef, an initiative that brings the concept of artificial reefs to other young people. Through hands-on workshops, William and his team teach participants how to design and create their own artificial reefs while exploring how these structures can support marine restoration. As a member of Jane Goodall's Roots & Shoots Youth Council USA, William continues to share his ideas with others, helping more young people gain the knowledge and tools to develop their own solutions for healthier waterways.









Meet RSYC Member, Naomi

A Roots & Shoots Project Grant helped Roots & Shoots Youth Council member Naomi and her group members transform a personal challenge into a community-driven solution. After experiencing bullying and stigma surrounding her natural hair and observing school absenteeism amongst Black girls, Naomi founded The Embold Project to help young girls build confidence and celebrate their identity. With support from Roots & Shoots, the group purchased natural hair products, styling tools, and dolls to host four interactive workshops for more than 100 girls in Baltimore. Participants learned about the history and beauty of natural hair, practiced styling techniques, and received complimentary hair care kits filled with essential products to continue caring for their hair at home. By addressing a need identified within her own community, Naomi created a welcoming space where young girls felt supported and proud of who they are.













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

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

Acton Family Foundation, Delta Air Lines, Disney Conservation Foundation, Frank & Susan Mars, G.A. Binney Foundation, Joe Tatelbaum & Grace Wang, John Templeton Foundation, Julian Grace Foundation, Macy's, Manaaki Foundation, Merlin Foundation, Papadopoulos Family Foundation, Park Foundation, Pony Barnes Foundation, Salesforce, Seedlings Foundation, Select Equity Group Foundation, Toyota

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