



PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Roots & Shoots

A Global Movement of Empowered Youth

The Jane Goodall Institute's Roots & Shoots program is a worldwide, apolitical, and non-violent movement empowering young people, kindergarten through college, to become involved in hands-on projects that make a better world. After three decades, Roots & Shoots has groups in more than 65 countries with community projects ranging in focus from animal welfare to environmentalism.

YOUNG PEOPLE AREN'T JUST FUTURE LEADERS – THEY'RE LEADING TODAY

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 participants choose their own projects and work with great enthusiasm, while younger participants operate under the guidance of teachers or parents.

Roots & Shoots has had thousands and thousands of members from school groups, community groups, family groups, corporate groups, and even groups in prisons. Many are adults now and a remarkable number of these alumni have retained the Roots & Shoots philosophy of prioritizing respect and compassion for other people, animals, and the natural world.

Roots & Shoots began in 1991 when 12 Tanzanian high school students expressed their concerns to Dr. Jane Goodall. Why wasn't the government prosecuting poachers for killing animals in national parks or dynamite fishermen destroying coral reefs? What could be done for street children?

After much discussion, they returned to their schools, recruited like-minded students, and gathered for a larger meeting – at which R&S was born. Jane and the program's founding youth decided that each Roots & Shoots group would work toward three project categories to make the world better – ones for people, ones for animals, and ones for the environment.



320,000+

individuals taking action with Roots & Shoots



11,500+

U.S. educators enrolled in professional development



6,700+

projects started by young people in the last ten years

Jane Goodall Institute

For more information, visit janegoodall.org
or email info@janegoodall.org

INDIVIDUAL ACTION

It is not that young people can change the world; it is that they are changing the world. Through Roots & Shoots, young people plan and execute projects that range from planting trees and growing vegetables to volunteering in soup kitchens and animal shelters to raising money for disaster victims and working to eliminate plastic. Groups meet to exchange ideas and an effort is made to mix children from different ethnic, religious, and economic backgrounds. As they collaborate on their projects, there grows a realization that their skin, their language, and their age are less important than the fact that they are all human beings deserving of respect.

A COMMON SPIRIT

While all Roots & Shoots programs share the same core values, what each one does depends on their members' age range, what kinds of problems or opportunities exist where the members live, and the issues that members choose to work on. All over the world, groups are planting trees, clearing trash, growing vegetables in their school gardens, and learning about the importance of protecting the environment and its biodiversity. The range of projects is inspiring, and music, dancing, and art play an important role. Roots & Shoots members not only work hard to put the world to rights, but they also have a lot of fun together.

THINK LOCALLY

There is a saying: "Think globally; act locally." However, thinking globally often leads to considering climate change, poverty, greed, and violence. The enormity of it all can lead to a feeling of helplessness. Instead, it is better to turn the saying around. Roots & Shoots groups think locally and thus engage in hands-on activities in their communities, such as removing trash from the environment, planting trees, or creating butterfly gardens. They can see the difference they make! Meanwhile, knowing that other groups are taking similar actions is how they think globally. That cumulative effect of thousands, the millions of ethical choices – what we buy, eat, wear, and how we interact with others – will move us toward a better world.

The collective impact of Roots & Shoots is huge: it is not that young people can change the world – **they are changing the world.**

YOUTH COUNCILS AND SUMMITS

Roots & Shoots Youth Leadership Councils have been developed in some countries. The role of these young people is to raise awareness about the movement, to inspire other youths, and to recruit membership in different schools, while at the same time gaining valuable skills that will help them become responsible and compassionate citizens. Roots & Shoots summits are held around the world, bringing together groups from a city, from a region, from a country, and, occasionally, as selected individuals from different countries. They can then share their experiences, offering insight into which projects have been successful and which ones have failed so they can learn from each other.

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PEACE

After many years of Roots & Shoots emphasizing the importance of living in peace and harmony with one another as well as with animals and the environment, Jane was appointed as a UN Messenger of Peace. Each September 21st, JGI celebrates UN's Day of Peace. All around the world, Roots & Shoots groups are encouraged to hold their own peace-focused events to honor this day and make giant peace doves with 20-foot wingspans using bed sheets or other recycled materials. These are "flown" on poles as students run through their respective communities. On many occasions, Roots & Shoots members have taken part in the day's ceremonies at the UN headquarters in New York.

*Every individual has a role to play.
Every individual makes a difference.
It's up to us to choose what kind of
difference we will make.*

Dr. Jane Goodall, DBE