



# the Jane Goodall Institute

## **About Jane Goodall's Roots & Shoots**

Founded in 1991 by Dr. Jane Goodall and a group of Tanzanian students, Jane Goodall's Roots & Shoots is about making positive change happen—for our communities, for animals and for the environment. Today, Roots & Shoots is the Jane Goodall Institute's global environmental and humanitarian youth program that involves almost 150,000 young people in 110 countries.

Through Roots & Shoots, young people from pre-school through college work with youth leaders and adult mentors to gain a better understanding of the issues and challenges that affect their immediate community, as well as the world at large. Each group identifies issues that concern them and then creates hands-on projects to make the world a better place.

Roots & Shoots activities take place in all kinds of settings including classrooms, home schools, nature centers, neighborhoods, refugee camps, zoos, scout troops and even around the dinner table. In a fun, flexible and supportive environment, young people and adults alike connect with one another, share ideas and inspiration and endeavor to effect change in their own neighborhoods or even in different time zones or hemispheres.

In fact, Roots & Shoots members take action all over the world, and their activities are as varied as young people's imaginations. In Shanghai, China, members help offices reduce their energy use through their Eco-office Evaluation Program. In South Dakota, the Pine Ridge Native American Reservation members organize a local farmers market that offers healthy produce while reaching out to local elders. And at Lugufu Refugee Camp in western Tanzania, members are learning to raise chickens rather than hunting endangered wildlife.

There are also projects that are global in scope or that involve youth from one community tackling issues affecting communities thousands of miles away. For example, through the "ReBirth the Earth: Trees for Tomorrow" campaign, U.S. Roots & Shoots members planted more than 3,600 trees across the country while raising more than \$18,000 (USD) to establish several tree nurseries in Tanzania.

In addition, Roots & Shoots is about training the next generation of leaders. Through the Roots & Shoots Youth Leadership Initiative, dedicated young people from across the United States join Youth Leadership Councils. These councils provide the training, tools and opportunities to help participants grow into powerful and compassionate leaders. Council members act as youth ambassadors, working to strengthen the Roots & Shoots network and create and lead special projects. In the past, council members have been featured in Animal Planet documentaries; developed and implemented global conservation campaigns; participated in international leadership immersion trips to Africa and South America; and even addressed the United Nations General Assembly!

Roots & Shoots makes it a priority to help young people connect with one another across miles, boundaries and cultures. The dynamic, interactive Roots & Shoots website, [www.rootsandshoots.org](http://www.rootsandshoots.org), provides members with helpful online tools, allowing them to take action, connect globally and combine forces. Discussion boards, project sharing, enewsletters and downloadable resources enable youth to creatively and collaboratively take action. With Jane Goodall's Roots & Shoots program, the power of youth is truly global.

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