

Roots & Shoots



Junior Badge

Adapted from the Jane Goodall Institute's Roots & Shoots Program.

"Roots creep underground everywhere and make a firm foundation. Shoots seem very weak, but to reach the light they can break open brick walls. Imagine that the brick walls are all the problems we have inflicted on our planet. Hundreds and thousands of roots and shoots, hundreds and thousands of young people around the world, can break through these walls. You can change the world."

Jane Goodall

The Roots & Shoots mission is to foster respect and compassion for all living things, to promote understanding of all cultures and beliefs and to inspire each individual to take action to make the world a better place for the environment, animals and the human community. All Roots & Shoots members, from pre-K to university, demonstrate their care and concern for all living things through service projects in their community.

The Roots & Shoots program began in 1991 in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, with a gathering of 12 students on Dr. Jane Goodall's back porch. The groups met with Dr. Jane to discuss a range of problems they knew about from first-hand experience that caused them deep concern. Their discussion covered topics such as pollution in the city, deforestation in the mountains, the welfare of domestic animals and the future of wild animals, including Dr. Jane's threatened chimpanzees.

These motivated young people wanted to learn more, they were willing to take action and they hoped that their peers would join with them to help make a difference, and Roots & Shoots was born.

The Roots & Shoots is based on the philosophy that:

- Every individual matters, whether human or animal.
- Every individual has a role to play.
- Every individual can make a difference.

Through the completion of a series of activities, Girl Scouts will become involved in projects to help save animals and the environment as well as each other, their communities and their world.

Membership in the Jane Goodall Institute is not required to participate in the Girl Scout Roots & Shoots program, but you may find many of the programs and resources helpful in planning and implementing your own community service activities. For more information, visit www.janegoodall.org.

Complete a total of six activities including two Discover, two Connect, one Take Action and one other activity chosen from any category.

Discover:

1. Learn about the work of the Jane Goodall Institute and its study of the habitat of chimpanzees, their behavior and the place in the environment.
2. Attend a county or 4-H fair, visit a nature center, a bird sanctuary, or a zoo. How are the specific needs of the animals being met? How much space do they have? Are they kept clean? Is their natural habitat duplicated as closely as possible? What are some of the problems or illnesses watched for by caretakers?
3. Learn how rain forests differ from forests in this area? Where are the rain forests of the world located? How large are they? Why do we need forests? What are some of the animals and plants that are found in the rain forests? How does the destruction of rain forests in South America affect other parts of the world?

4. Find out about five zoos or wildlife sanctuaries in different countries. What types animals are housed there and why? How do these zoos compare to zoos in the USA. Explore the role zoos play in protecting endangered species.
5. By banding birds we are able to count them and learn about their migratory habits. Visit a bird banding site in your area and see how many birds are spotted during the year. What types of birds are banded there? Find ways to help birds through the cold winter or dry summer. Learn where birds might go when they migrate. Identify one bird that comes from further north to spend the winter in our area--what would happen if its winter home were destroyed?
6. How does the weather/climate affect animals? How do they adapt? List some environmental disasters. How can animals survive such disasters?

Connect:

1. Plant trees with your troop. Water the trees and monitor their growth for one year. How many animals make their home there during the first year? Learn what happens when large areas of trees are cut down. What areas of the community/world are in need of reforestation?
2. Research observation techniques and animal behavior before going on a guided nature walk. Use what you have learned to observe animals in their natural habitats.
3. Identify several women working on environmental careers and ask them to visit your troop meeting.
4. Visit the Roots & Shoots website (www.rootsandshoots.org). Look at the Roots & Shoots bulletin board to find out what groups are doing around the world. Find out how many Roots & Shoots groups are worldwide. In how many countries? In how many U.S. states? Write to one of these groups to ask them for information about their projects.
5. Design the perfect place to live. Does it have trees? Why would you want trees around this place? List all the reasons trees are beneficial to us and the environment. Find out what builders, landscape architects and biologist consider when planning a new site.

Take Action:

1. Have a wildlife art competition in your troop, service unit or school. Invite younger girls to participate and community members to visit.
2. At an encampment or outdoor activity work with younger girls to increase their environmental awareness. Create a wide game focusing on environmental issues, or lead nature hikes, pointing out erosion and how it affects animal habitat. Explain to younger girls how it could be corrected.
3. Participate in a neighborhood clean up and then observe the area for one month. What kind of litter returns first? Who drops it? Is it more likely to appear after weekends than during the week? Why do you suppose people litter? Suggest three ways to try and convince people not to litter and make posters for your school or community center.
4. Visit a senior center and work on the "Draw our Roots & Shoots" project.



Draw our Roots & Shoots

Introductions:

Meet the seniors. Introduce the Roots & Shoots group.

Explain the purpose of Roots & Shoots.

Materials: Large Pieces of paper; Colored pencils.

The purpose of this activity is for the older and younger group members to get to know each other.

1. Pick any kind of tree to represent you and your life. Be sure to add roots, branches and shoots, trunk and the ground.
2. Roots provide support for the tree. Be sure to draw them even though they are under the ground. Then write down the names of people who give you support.
3. Shoots or branches grow away from the tree trunk. Write down what your dreams are.
4. The trunk represents you.
5. Pair up with a senior and share your tree drawings.

Sharing Time: ask the senior citizens to share a memory about a favorite tree. For example, some families plant a tree when a child is born or others might remember a favorite flowering or climbing tree.

Reading list: The Eagle and the Wren, by Dr. Jane Goodall