



Program Background

Jane Goodall's Roots & Shoots Background

Founded in 1991 by Dr. Jane Goodall and a group of Tanzanian students, Jane Goodall's Roots & Shoots (R&S) is a global environmental and humanitarian youth program that works with youth to organize service projects. Currently there are approximately 150,000 R&S members in all 50 states and 120 countries. In addition to leading projects through the R&S network, our youth serve on the board of the Jane Goodall Institute have started successful non-profits, and effectively changed local and national laws.

Los Angeles Diversity Initiative Background

The Roots & Shoots Los Angeles Diversity Initiative was launched in the fall of 2008 with the goal of improving the lives of inner-city youth by empowering them to make positive contributions to their community through service projects. What began with only 5 Los Angeles schools in the summer of 2008 has since grown to include 78 schools; 46 of which serve economically disadvantaged youth and are eligible for Title 1 funding.

In the last two years, participating groups have taught free nutrition classes to local families, built vegetable gardens, tutored younger children, volunteered with animals, offered free tax services to families, organized community fairs, removed 1,440 pounds of trash from the LA River for a total of 11,000 service hours.

Evaluations of the Diversity Initiative have demonstrated its success. Ninety-five percent of students reported an increased desire to serve others in need and 92% reported an increased belief in themselves that they can change the world.

Los Angeles Diversity Initiative Program

The Roots & Shoots team works with each participating school to develop an in-class or afterschool club led by an adult group leader. Staff supports each club as they develop a service campaign to focus on throughout the year. Youth will actively participate in the design and process of these campaigns. Examples may include: implementing a recycling program on campus or advocating for water conservation at school and in the community.

We offer- Service Learning professional development highlighting how Roots & Shoots projects can be woven with academic content, Roots & Shoots curriculum, class presentations to students, and we also have trained R&S volunteers who can travel to classrooms and model one-hour R&S project lessons.

Throughout the year, the R&S team will regularly follow-up with each teacher or group leader to offer continued guidance including onsite support, new project ideas, outside resources and opportunities as they become available. At the end of the year, each school has a functioning R&S group that remains self sufficient in following years.

LOS ANGELES
The Jane Goodall Research Center
University of Southern California
3601 Watt Way- GFS 120
Los Angeles, CA 90089
213.471.2516 main

BERKELEY
Roots & Shoots California
1581 Le Roy Ave.
Berkeley, CA 94704
510.644.8236 main
510.644.1115 fax

rootsnshoots@janegoodall.org
www.rootsandshoots.org