

## **Dear New England Roots & Shoots Members,**

The Roots & Shoots New England Regional office is now accepting members for the New England Youth Leadership Council (NEYLC). The Youth Leadership Initiative is an effort by Roots & Shoots to extend and incorporate youth involvement throughout the network. Our council provides Roots & Shoots members throughout the 6 states in our region with the opportunity to be truly influential in creating lines of communication, outreach, and innovation throughout our region.

Five years ago, we began the Youth Leadership Initiative to increase the number of opportunities for youth leadership in the Roots & Shoots program. This month, we are looking to recruit 6 new NEYLC members between the ages of 14-19.

The NEYLC is a diverse group of 10 high school students who are dedicated to making a change in the world. As a group, you will help guide the direction of Roots & Shoots throughout New England. You will also be given the opportunity to present for local educators and R&S groups, help to plan and lead youth summits and events, and write articles for the Roots & Shoots newsletter, website, and media outlets.

Certain duties and a serious time commitment will be expected. We are looking for motivated high school students who are members of Roots & Shoots that want to take their experience to a new level. As Dr. Jane Goodall says, "Every individual matters. Every individual has a role to play. Every individual makes a difference."

### **Application process:**

- Fill out the Regional Youth Leadership Council 2007 Application. Please submit Part 1, 2, and 3 via email to [neylc@janegoodall.org](mailto:neylc@janegoodall.org). Please sign and mail Part 5 to the Roots & Shoots New England Office, 89 South Street, Boston, MA 02111-2670
- Request a letter of recommendation from your Roots & Shoots group leader, or from another non-family member who has been your teacher, professor or mentor and who is familiar with your Roots & Shoots work. Show them this letter and the NEYLC FACT SHEET to help them understand this opportunity.
- Upon receipt of your application, we will contact you in order to schedule an interview
- If needed, you may request a paper application at 617/439.9090

**\*\*Applications must be postmarked by December 18\*\***

We encourage electronic applications. Applications will be reviewed by a panel of Roots & Shoots Staff and current NEYLC members. If you have any questions, please contact the Roots & Shoots New England Office, 89 South Street, Boston, MA 02111-2670 or call us at 617/439.9090. Thanks for your interest in joining the Roots & Shoots Youth Leadership Initiative.

Sincerely,  
The New England Youth Leadership Council  
Roots & Shoots New England

## **New England Youth Leadership Council Fact Sheet**

### **How is the New England Youth Leadership Council organized?**

The NEYLC is comprised of ten youth (ages 14-19) from throughout New England who work in coordination with the regional office. We will meet once a month via telephone conference as we strive to have representatives throughout the region and therefore meeting in person is not possible. Each member is required to serve a 2 year term on the council and will be selected for a specific role within the council for a one year term. One Youth Leader from the NEYLC will be elected to serve as a representative on the National Youth Leadership Council.

### **What is each member's commitment to the New England Youth Leadership Council?**

**\*Please discuss and agree to these commitments with your parents or legal guardian**

- Commit to a two year term on the council
- Attend and participate in the annual Spring Orientation Retreat **(this year it will be held March 22-25, 2007 at Disney in Orlando, FL)**
- Participate in and fundraise for the Summer Training Experience in Tanzania
- Participate in Fall Leadership Outreach, which includes regional events, conferences, campaigns and summits
- An ability to check email a minimum of twice a week

### **What are the duties of the New England Youth Leadership Council?**

- Help guide the direction of Roots & Shoots in New England
- Support the Roots & Shoots network by acting as a mentor to groups within New England
- Assist with recruiting new groups in their regions
- Fulfill a general time commitment of 5- 15 hours per month, not including major events
- Participate in council initiatives and projects
- Assist with fundraising for gatherings and events
- Attend and participate in at least 10 out of 12 monthly meetings/conference calls per year
- Have weekly check-ins with the Regional Office
- Write at least 1 article for a R&S publication and/or website

### **What are the benefits of being a member of the New England Youth Leadership Council?**

- Receive Roots & Shoots Compassionate Servant Leadership training three times each year
- Establish a close connection and real world experience with Roots & Shoots and the Jane Goodall Institute, an international network and organization
- Sustaining relationships with world renown community-centered conservation and education mentors

- Opportunity to participate in the Summer Training Experience, specifically designed for R&S Youth Leaders
- Build and extend transferable skills including: critical thinking, resource development, verbal and written communication, organization methods, relationship building and networking.
- Make connections with motivated, interesting young people from across the nation and around the world
- Gain valuable leadership experience and receive letters of recommendation from R&S staff for college/ job applications
- Enjoy privileges of individual Roots & Shoots membership including: access to Roots & Shoots resources, invitations to special events, special discounts, international and regional newsletters, discussion boards, and much more
- Self-efficacy (belief in one's personal power to produce and effect) and the ability and confidence to express and implement your ideas

### **Are you qualified for the New England Youth Leadership Council?**

We are looking for dedicated youth who are passionate about making a difference in their communities. We seek current, active Roots & Shoots members who can bring project experience and leadership to this role. Every applicant should have at least one year of experience within his/her local Roots & Shoots group and should be between the ages of 14 and 19. We require a strong commitment of time and energy so, please think carefully about your other responsibilities at school, home, work, etc. before applying. We are seeking individuals with dynamic personalities who have demonstrated leadership within their own Roots & Shoots group and are excited about taking their Roots & Shoots experience to an all new level of involvement.

### **Get Involved!**

Applications for new members beginning in January of 2007 will be available November 13, 2006 and must be postmarked December 18, 2006. Phone interviews will be scheduled for those applicants who make the second round during the second and third week of January and new members will be announced January 29, 2007. If you are interested in applying to be a member of the New England Youth Leadership Council, please send application to us or contact the Roots & Shoots New England Office, 89 South Street, Boston, MA 02111-2670 or [neylc@janegoodall.org](mailto:neylc@janegoodall.org).

**New England Youth Leadership Council  
Application Form**

**PART I: General Information**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade Level (if applicable): \_\_\_\_\_

Roots & Shoots Group: \_\_\_\_\_

Group  
Leader: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

**PART 2: Please briefly answer (1-2 paragraphs for each question) the following questions on a separate piece of paper.**

- 1 Briefly describe yourself and your interests- what would your personality and presence bring to the New England Youth Leadership Council?
- 2 What other activities are you involved in? How will you be able to balance these activities, your commitment to your home Roots & Shoots group, the NEYLC, and your schoolwork?
- 3 Why are you interested in participating in the New England Youth Leadership Council? Please state how you feel this council can improve the program for Roots & Shoots groups of all ages. What would you like to accomplish through this council?

**PART 3: Please rate the yourself on a scale of 1-5 in the following categories**  
(1 representing poor, 3 being average, and 5 representing excellent)

- \_\_\_ Public speaking skills
- \_\_\_ Writing skills
- \_\_\_ Dedication to work
- \_\_\_ Creative thinking skills
- \_\_\_ Ability to work in groups/teams
- \_\_\_ Ability to work individually
- \_\_\_ Enthusiasm
- \_\_\_ Motivation

**PART 4: One Letter of Recommendation**

Please submit one letter of recommendation from your group leader or another teacher, professor, or mentor. This should be a non-family member, preferably someone who is familiar with your work with the Roots & Shoots program.

**PART 5: Student and Parental/Legal Guardian Understanding Agreement (Please sign and mail this part to Regional Office)**

If you are under the age of 18, please have your parent/ legal guardian read and sign the Parental/ Legal Guardian Understanding Agreement. This is required for acceptance to the Council.

Name of Applicant:

\_\_\_\_\_

**New England Youth Leadership Council Commitment**

I have read the requirements for participation in the New England Youth Leadership Council, and I understand that it is a serious commitment of time and energy. If selected by the membership committee, I agree to work for the goals of the Council to the best of my ability. This will include attending at least 10 of the 12 monthly phone conferences and at least two of the three major annual retreats/ trips (listed above in the commitments section), in addition to participating in project and committee work totaling approximately 5-15 hours per month. Attending a retreat/trip may require fundraising and out-of-state/international travel (R&S staff can assist with fundraising ideas and support)

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Parental/Legal Guardian Understanding Agreement**

I have read the requirements for participation in the New England Youth Leadership Council, and I understand that it is a commitment of time and energy for my child. If my child is selected by the membership committee, I agree to support my child in her/his work with the council, and do my best to foster her/his growth with this organization. I understand that membership on the Council means that my child will participate in monthly phone conferences, work on project committees, and be required to attend at least two of the three major annual retreats/ trips. Attending a retreat may require fundraising and out-of-state travel (R&S staff can assist with fundraising ideas and support)

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Print Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Relation to Child: \_\_\_\_\_