

# ROOTS FOR THE FUTURE



## PARTNER AGREEMENT

Roots for the Future is designed as a multi-year paid STEM education and workforce development internship program for a cohort of Twin Cities youth. Youth cohorts work through three stages of the program, each stage building upon the experience of the previous one with increased leadership responsibilities.

A pilot of the program was launched in 2021. Led by Environmental Initiative, Roots for the Future has been developed in partnership with public, private, nonprofit, and community partners. The program is designed to address the intersectional barriers faced by BIPOC youth who are interested in environmental careers.

Many Minnesota-based companies have environmental and community engagement goals as part of their organizational missions and visions. Further, many Minnesota-based companies aim to hire and retain a diverse workforce, both now and into the future.

By partnering with Environmental Initiative and Roots for the Future, organizations can work towards meeting their environment and community-focused goals while building relationships with the next generation of the green workforce. This internship program is meant to be a pathway into environmental careers.

## CONTACT US

Contact us for a conversation about becoming a Roots for the Future partner.

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Environmental Initiative is a 501(c)3 nonprofit with a mission to catalyze collaboration across perspectives, power, and systems for social equity and environmental health.

# PARTNER COMMITMENT OPTIONS

To be a partner of Roots for the Future and Environmental Initiative, you make a yearly financial contribution and select 1 - 3 in-kind commitments of time and expertise.



## TIME AND EXPERTISE

- Host the Roots for the Future intern cohort on job shadowing days.
- Sponsor site visit to showcase your work in one or more of the following expertise areas:
  - » Food systems and agriculture.
  - » Air and water quality.
  - » Renewable energy, construction and engineering, and emerging environmental technologies.
  - » Sustainable land care, forestry, and conservation.
  - » Recreation.
  - » Waste management.
- Present on a specific topic with a hands-on activity.
- Participate in a Roots for the Future community project or event.
- Match a mentor with a Roots for the Future intern for 1 - 3 informational interviews and mentoring sessions.
- Contact Roots for the Future alumni for future job openings.



## PARTNER BENEFITS

Your organization will help shape a meaningful pathway for BIPOC youth into environmental careers by creating opportunities for subject matter experts to present or engage in hands-on activities, mentorships, STEM education, and joint volunteer activities. You will also learn from the next generation of green professionals about what work matters most to them.

Partner organizations will be:

- Invited to a reception with interns and other sponsors as a networking event.
- Mentioned in the Environmental Initiative annual report.
- Recognized on social media (logos + tagging).
- Tagged (Instagram + LinkedIn) when attending events and appearing in photos.
- Identified by logo on the Environmental Initiative website.

## | BECOME A PARTNER

- Meet with Environmental Initiative staff.
- Define commitments.
- Identify a liaison.
- Sign an agreement.
- Review commitment annually.

## | AFTER I SAY YES...

### Information session

All partners meet to network, review expectations, and learn about youth engagement best practices.

### Program kick-off event

Meet interns, staff, and community partners in a fun environment.

## | EXAMPLES OF PAST PARTNERSHIP ACTIVITIES

### Renewable Energy with Go Solar Kidz and Just B Solar

- Presentation and activity on circuitry basics.
- Build a solar house that utilizes mini-solar panels to power a fan.
- Install a solar panel on a sample frame.

### Emerging Environmental Technology with Minnesota STEM Partnership

- Presentation on the use of drones for environmental monitoring.
- Drone training on flying a racing drone.
- Youth-designed “Pitch Competition” for the use of an emerging technology to address an environmental issue in their community.

### Construction and Engineering with Urban Boat Builders

- Build a skin-on canoe from scratch with hand tools.

### Water Quality with Hennepin County, City of Minneapolis, Emmons and Olivier Resources, Inc., and Mississippi Watershed Management Organization

- Career panel with water resource professionals.
- Presentations on stormwater management, urban pipesheds, and brownfields.
- Youth design of stormwater management project and simulation of the Minneapolis’ project prioritization process.

### Air Quality with City of Minneapolis

- Monitor and analyze air quality data from community air monitors in the Green Zone areas.

### Forestry with Hennepin County, City of Minneapolis, Tree Trust, Trees and Me, LLC., and Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board

- Plant trees in North Minneapolis.
- Learn how to prune and climb trees and use Tree ID for taking inventory.
- Tour tree nurseries.
- Complete the University of Minnesota MN Certified Tree Inspector course.

### Sustainable Landscaping with Metro Blooms, City of Minneapolis, and Hennepin County

- Complete a sustainable landscape training.
- Work with city and county staff to maintain green infrastructure sites.

### Agriculture with Project Sweetie Pie

- Grow, maintain, and harvest produce in urban gardens around North Minneapolis.

