

ROOTS RISING

Administered by Environmental INITIATIVE



ROOTS RISING ACTION COUNCIL

Youth-led environmental leadership in action
A project of Roots for the Future

The Roots Rising Action Council is a youth leadership program at Environmental Initiative that moves young people from environmental awareness to real-world action. An extension of the Roots for the Future program, Roots Rising gives youth in 8th through 12th grade a platform to build skills and apply what they've learned: leading projects, engaging their communities, and advocating for environmental justice solutions that reflect their lived experience.

When youth are equipped to lead, they bring an authenticity and depth of understanding that strengthens the work, and they build solutions that are grounded in the communities that need them most. Investing in Roots Rising is a direct investment in those communities.

Additionally, Roots Rising offers public and private sector employees in the environmental, sustainability, natural resources, and environmental justice fields the opportunity to invest in youth leadership and help diversify the pool of new entrants to their field.



WHAT YOUTH DO

Members of the Action Council work collaboratively to:

- Identify environmental challenges affecting their communities, such as urban heat, tree canopy, food systems, and climate resilience.
- Develop and lead youth-driven projects, campaigns, and advocacy initiatives.
- Organize community events and youth-led conversations.
- Engage with local organizations, policymakers, and environmental leaders.
- Work and build relationships with public and private sector environmental employers.
- Elevate youth voice in environmental decision-making.

SKILLS AND EXPERIENCE GAINED

Through their participation, youth strengthen skills in:

- Leadership, public speaking, and civic engagement.
- Environmental justice and climate literacy.
- Workforce readiness and career exploration in environmental and sustainability fields.
- Community organizing and advocacy.
- Project planning and collaboration.



WHY SUPPORT ROOTS RISING

Investing in youth leadership helps prepare future environmental leaders to join the workforce. Roots Rising connects youth with professionals, community organizations, and policymakers while preparing them for careers in sustainability and environmental justice. Support for Roots Rising helps expand those opportunities, strengthen environmental career pathways, and ensure that the next generation of changemakers has the resources to lead.



GET INVOLVED

A contribution of \$5,800 can support 12 months of paid participation for one student, while as little as \$1,000 covers associated costs such as programming expenses and food for one participant. We are also seeking in-kind sponsorship – there are opportunities to provide professional transportation services, food, space for meetings, and more.

To learn more or discuss support opportunities, please contact:

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