



## ROOTS & SHOOTS ATLANTA BASECAMP REQUEST FOR SUPPORT

### PROPOSED ACTIVITIES

The Jane Goodall Institute (JGI) proposes to partner with Dekalb County to continue delivering hands-on environmental education workshops to students in Dekalb County. In 2023, JGI's Roots & Shoots (R&S) program launched a basecamp in Atlanta, along with several cities across the country. These Basecamps are grassroots centers of activity that are grown and nurtured by local staff and volunteers for changemakers to collaborate, gain inspiration, and support community service projects that have a positive impact in their community.

During the summer of 2024, JGI received funding from Commissioner Ted Terry to create a new Roots & Shoots group at the Fernbank Museum. The funding was for programming through December 2024. We received additional resources from Commissioner Michelle Long Spears to continue the program through the end of the 2024-2025 school year. This school year (2025-2026) was sponsored by Delta Airlines. We are currently seeking funds to offer the Roots & Shoots Program during the 2026-2027 school year.

While most R&S groups are initiated by the groups themselves, JGI partnered with Fernbank Museum to create a group for middle school students. The group was led by Fernbank Museum staff with support from program interns from local colleges and universities. In keeping with the R&S mission, the service projects for this group were determined by the youth involved after a community mapping workshop. This school year, the Roots & Shoots Program at Fernbank Museum was expanded to include 5<sup>th</sup> graders. Now, 5<sup>th</sup> -8<sup>th</sup> graders will learn how to be changemakers in their communities!

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Out-of-School (OST) programs benefit young people, their families, and communities. Not only do these activities support academic outcomes, but they also provide youth with opportunities for career exploration and exposure to different interests. The Roots & Shoots program at the Fernbank Museum engages and empowers middle school youth while encouraging them to make a difference in their community and the world at large.

The Fernbank Science Museum program will be evaluated using surveys and focus groups. The success of the program will also be based on the number of participants recruited for the Fernbank Science Museum program.

## BUDGET (2026-2027)

Fernbank Science Museum	\$15,000
Intern Stipends	\$10,000
JGI /Roots & Shoots	\$5,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$30,000</b>

## JANE GOODALL INSTITUTE’S ROOTS & SHOOTS OVERVIEW

R&S is JGI’s global humanitarian youth program founded on the principle that if young people engage with the issues that help their own communities, it will forever change their consciousness of their role as citizens. Established in 1991 by Dr. Jane Goodall and a group of 12 Tanzanian students, R&S has empowered more than one million youth in 66 counties—including all 50 United States, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and Guam.

Today, Jane’s inspirational message is as important as ever. Solving the challenges facing our planet will require a global movement—and that means activating our young people to make a difference for people, animals, and the environment we share. When young people are empowered to create a better world for all beings, they influence the adults in their lives to care as well, thereby creating the conditions for lasting behavior change across countries.

Through R&S, young people learn skills and traits to become change-makers. They do this by planning and implementing service projects that serve people, animals, and the environment. Under the guidance of an educator or group leader, youth work to identify, strategize, and implement service projects through a 4-step process wherein they:

- (1) map their communities
- (2) identify local issues
- (3) select and implement a service project to address the issue of their choosing
- (4) celebrate their successes.

Whether it’s by joining an existing R&S group, creating a new group, or participating as an individual, young people develop confidence and compassion while bringing about positive change in their communities and in their own lives.



Roots & Shoots participants at Fernbank Museum celebrated 35 years of Roots & Shoots.



Members of the Roots & Shoots National Youth Council share their experiences at the program celebration



Participants tour Fernbank Forest (above) and engage in community mapping (below)



