

Starting a Roots & Shoots group

Welcome!

We have prepared this guide to support you in creating your Roots & Shoots group. Take action today by bringing your group together. Every small step you take together will make a big difference!



1. CONTACT ROOTS & SHOOTS TO FIND OUT ABOUT PROJECTS IN YOUR AREA AND TO SIGN UP

It's always good to have a mentor and some help when wanting to make a difference, contact Roots & Shoots South Africa over email Groups@rootsandshoots.org.za or send a whatsapp to 072 723 9256 to get in touch, register and find out about projects and groups in your area.

2. DO THE COMMUNITY MAPPING EXERCISE

This is a fun exercise to do with friends and family that can help identify areas of concern and interest in your community you and your new group may want to focus on.

The community mapping exercise guide will be provided to you by your R&S mentor and guide after having signed up.

3. SHARE YOUR IDEAS AND THOUGHTS WITH YOUR COMMUNITY AND INDIVIDUALS OF INTEREST

Whether it be at school, home or door to door in your neighborhood, identify people of interest who will want to be part of your group or would love to support the work you are trying to do. If you're starting a group remotely, you can post about it on social media, in your community's newsletter, or place an announcement on the website and in the mailing lists of your school, community center or library. Whatever method you use, remember to get permission first, and to provide the time, date, and location of your group meetings.

4. RECRUIT A GROUP MEMBERS AND ALLOCATE A GROUP SUPERVISOR

As a leader of a Roots & Shoots group, you would be in charge of facilitating meetings and choosing projects to undertake. However, choosing a trusted adult mentor to serve as group advisor can help you accomplish a lot along the way! Group advisors will be able to offer you advice, support and access to decision-making spaces and resources.

5. FIND A PLACE TO MEET

If you don't have one already, you'll need to find a space to meet regularly with your group. You can meet in your school, community center, a local library, park etc. You can also meet remotely using any video chatting platform if you have access to it, e.g Whatsapp video calls, Zoom, etc.

6. HOLD A START-UP MEETING

Once you have a location choose a time and date for your first meeting. Use the time to talk about what is important to you. You can always invite your Roots & Shoots mentor to come sit in and join this first meeting should anyone have any questions you can't answer and to assist with ideas and group management.

Engage your peers! Explain what Roots & Shoots is, the program's history, and what your group is all about. You can use resources from the Roots & Shoots website. Brainstorm projects you and your group are passionate about.

Get everyone's contact information (e.g. name, phone number, email address) then set up your next meeting!

7. GETTING STARTED ON A PROJECT

Getting started is the hardest part, but once your group is in place there will be so many projects your members are passionate about!

8. KEEP IN TOUCH

Don't forget to share your projects with us! You are more than welcome to contact your Roots & Shoots mentor anytime should you or your group need help, guidance or ideas. We also love helping our groups gain exposure and even finding funding to support awesome projects, so remember to always keep touch with updates and stories we can share to our other Root & Shoots groups all over the globe.

**We are so excited for you to join
our Roots & Shoots SA team!**

