



Young Tree Champions Guide

The Tree Council and M&G plc have teamed up to deliver Young Tree Champions, an inspiring education programme and campaign. The initiative aims to inspire children and teachers from across the UK to become a Force for Nature by connecting, learning, caring and sharing their passion for trees and nature to help tackle the climate and nature crises.

Why Young Tree Champions?

Young people are living through unprecedented times, from a global pandemic to the climate and biodiversity crises. More than ever, children are worried for the future - both their own and their planet's. Over the past year, the learning gap between disadvantaged pupils and their peers has grown by 46% and more than two-thirds of young people say their mental health has suffered due to the pandemic.

However, 89% of young people feel they can make a difference in tackling climate change. Now is the time to bring children and nature together to create a fair, inclusive, exciting and healthy future for all life on earth.

We need your creativity and talent to shape that future. Our Young Tree Champions are a Force for Nature.



“There can be no greater legacy than giving young people the tools they need to save our planet.”

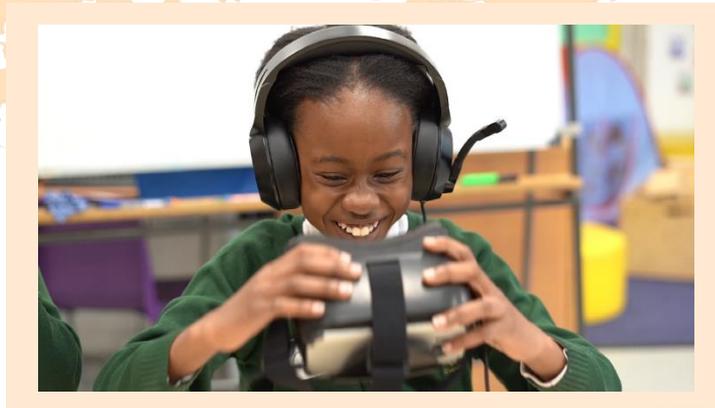
Sir David Attenborough



Be a #ForceForNature

Weblinks:

youngtreechampions.org.uk
treecouncil.org.uk



What are the benefits for you and your school?

The Young Tree Champion programme can do so much for your students. Listen to some of our Year One lead teachers' feedback on their experiences during a recent [evaluation meeting](#).

- Supporting children's development, enabling them to grow deeper connections with each other, their teachers and nature. They will learn key high-order skills and understand the role of trees in tackling the climate and nature crises, building the vocabulary and confidence they need to empower others.
- Providing teachers with a suite of high-quality training sessions to grow their confidence and give them inspiring activities and resources like trees and tech kits to support learning in the school grounds. Teachers will have access to an exclusive online Club Space where they can connect, learn and share ideas, skills and resources with other teachers from across the UK.
- Raising the national profile of the school by showcasing the incredible efforts of teachers and pupils. The Young Tree Champion programme contributes to key partner initiatives, like Eco-schools, John Muir, Forest Schools and STEM activity.



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How do we become a Young Tree Champion School?

The Tree Council, with the support of our core partners, provides a package of support for every step of your school's journey.

Step One: Explore our website

Exploring the [Young Tree Champions website](#) will give you a flavour of the programme. You'll be able to download free samples of activity plans and inspiration guides, watch past training webinars and see how other schools have progressed.

Step Two: Create a club and recruit your Champions

[Sign up for a free Club account](#) to gain exclusive access to extra activity plans, competitions, training resources and Ambassador masterclasses. You'll now be part of a powerful network of Young Tree Champions through the learning hub and can support and learn from teachers across the UK.

Step Three: Deliver a school project

Take the next step and become a fully-fledged Young Tree Champion school by [delivering a project](#). You'll have access to training to develop your students' confidence and oratory skills, and the opportunity to have an in-school workshop for your students. You will also be eligible for a tech kit and a biodiversity-boosting, carbon-storing tree pack.

Step Four: Speak up for trees and nature

This is an opportunity to empower your students by enabling them to develop the skills and confidence they need to speak up, as well as raising your school's profile both locally and nationally. Each spring, we launch a national speaking up for trees and nature competition which is a great opportunity to engage the whole school and get local press, radio or even TV involved. Winners are announced at our annual Force for Nature Festival live on YouTube.

How do we become a National Beacon School?

Step Five: Achieve Beacon School status

A Young Tree Champion Beacon School is a school that has successfully completed their project aim connecting, learning, caring for and sharing the power of trees. Submitted their project self-assessment form and posted on their club space. Beacon schools are awarded (subject to assessment) at the National Force for Nature Festival in June.

What are the key dates?

18 November: Project applications open

20 January: Project applications close

24 January: Successful schools notified

Early March: School project pack delivered

Early March: Speaking Up competition begins

31 May: Competition and project self-assessment deadline

June: National Force for Nature Festival (online)

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