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## Junior Ambassador Application Guidance

If you're considering nominating **two** Young Tree Champions to become a Junior Ambassador, then this guidance is for you. It provides guidance on the questions in the application form and explains the support that you will receive to deliver Junior Ambassadors in your school.

### Top tips

- Give yourself time to consider your nomination. You can make it democratic and ask your Young Tree Champions to put a name in a hat for who they think should be a Junior Ambassador.
- Make sure you complete the application form together with your two nominees.
- Include in your application activities that support/add value to your Young Tree Champion Project or club activities.
- Include clear examples and complete all the questions.

### Application form

Please ensure you complete all the questions and answer the questions to the best of your ability. Please complete all essential information and include two nominations.

### Guidance on answering the questions

Please consider these points when completing your application form.

### What is a Junior Ambassador?

A Junior Ambassador is a Young Tree Champion who has demonstrated an amazing level of commitment, passion and determination to deliver their Young Tree Champion project or to being a part of your Young Tree Champion Club. They are an individual that has grown in their role and has demonstrated signs of leadership, teamwork and the creative communication skills necessary to speak up about trees, nature through art, creative writing or public speaking amongst other things.

### Why is being a Junior Ambassador so important?

The world is changing and the negative impacts of the climate and nature crises are becoming ever more evident, both at home and globally. The climate and nature crises are increasingly having a negative impact on children and young people's mental health: according to recent research by the University of Bath, 75% of children feel anxious about their future and the future of the planet.

The health and wellbeing of trees and nature is also under threat. The increased frequency and impact of extreme weather, the increase of pests, diseases and pollution and the continued degradation of soils and natural habitats, vital for sustaining life on Earth, all threaten a balanced healthy environment. This is why Junior Ambassadors are so important.



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### **What is the role of a Junior Ambassador?**

The Junior Ambassador's role is to be a Force for Nature and tackle the climate and nature crises by connecting with trees and nature and supporting their lead teacher and Young Tree Champions in delivering a Young Tree Champion project or club activities. Leading on sharing their activities in fun and creative ways (art, stories, poetry, music), through various media (including newsletters, blogs, videos, displays, assemblies, posts). They will encourage and inspire other young people to be a Force For Nature. Junior Ambassadors will also need to be willing to collaborate with other junior ambassadors from across the UK and participate in press and regional events, as and when opportunities arise.

### **How will this role develop important skills and knowledge?**

The inspiring online masterclasses will develop key communication skills, including oracy and creative expression, as well as developing art, creative writing and other skills that will help Junior Ambassadors to connect with nature and each other and take action to support your project or club. As members of a network of like-minded Junior Ambassadors, your ambassadors will further develop leadership skills, problem-solving abilities, teamwork and organisational skills as well as many other skills, include these in your application.

### **Why are trees important?**

Easy question, there is so much you can include. For example trees deliver a multitude of eco-system services for us and all other life on Earth, from producing half the world's oxygen to storing huge amounts of carbon and helping to control the global climate. Trees provide a home to approximately 75% of all known species on Earth, as well as food and medicines. Trees also filter our air, prevent flooding, generate soil and create rain through transpiration. Trees even help us feel calm and happy. We know trees are simply amazing, so include some of these points if you think there important. But most importantly include why trees are important to you?



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### **Raising awareness of your Young Tree Champion Project or club activities**

Consider ways that you have done this in the past, giving examples and how you intend to raise awareness in the future. Think big, think creatively, this is an exciting question so think outside the box.

#### Additional considerations

#### **What's my role as a teacher (or youth leader) and what support will I receive?**

Your role as a teacher is to continue to lead the important Young Tree Champion project or club in your school (or youth centre) and to support your Junior Ambassador(s) in creatively connecting with trees and nature raising awareness.

Primarily, you will be the point of contact between us and the Junior Ambassador(s). We will make you aware of the programme details so that you can help them to make the most of masterclasses on offer and to help them identify opportunities to support the delivery of your Young Tree Champion project or club activities.

#### **Safeguarding**

All masterclasses are led by a Senior Ambassador and supported by a member of the Tree Council Schools team (fully qualified teacher). The Tree Council schools team and senior ambassadors all have an enhanced DBS and have received safeguarding training.

#### **Your ambassador packs and certificate**

Your pack includes a **passport** for your Junior Ambassador(s) to complete during their time as an ambassador. This passport allows an ambassador to record the masterclasses that they have attended and for the lead teacher or youth leader to confirm that they have completed the masterclass challenge that has been set. At least two challenges need to be completed and emailed via [schools@treecouncil.org.uk](mailto:schools@treecouncil.org.uk). One challenge is set per masterclass. In return, The Tree Council team will post a signed certificate from the Senior Ambassador team.

We also include an ambassador pin-badge that they can wear with pride, to highlight the vital work they are doing to tackle the climate and nature crisis in their school and community.

**Thank you for supporting the Junior Ambassador programme and for the work you are already doing as part of your Young Tree Champion project to help children and young people be a Force For Nature.**