



# Our Manifesto

Leading the RSPB's youth revolution





## Who we are

We are a group of young people aged 16-24 from diverse backgrounds across the UK. We want to represent the voice of the next generation and further the RSPB's goal of preserving and restoring nature.

Young people play a vital role in the RSPB's work and the protection of our environment, and we deserve to have a say in the action we take to protect our planet.

Through the Youth Council, we have the opportunity to create content for the RSPB, represent the organisation at events, sit on committees to voice our opinions and influence the RSPB's work, and many other exciting things. From the creation of 'Our Beautiful Wild' film to organising the Youth in Nature summit, we strive to inspire and empower young people to act for nature.



# Meet the Youth Council

2022-2024



**Alfie**



**Freddie**



**Indy**



**Kabir**



**Katie**



**Lisa**



**Luke**



**Natasha**



**Sennen**



**Thomas**





# The natural world

We love nature. The diversity, connectivity and resilience of the living world inspires us and connects us. It is a source of hope, happiness and healing for us all.

But nature is in crisis. The combined effects of global climate change, habitat loss and pollution are causing significantly elevated extinction rates and threatening the integrity of ecosystems across the planet. Every member of the RSPB Youth Council is committed to alleviating these problems, to give back to the nature we love and to improve the abundance, diversity and resilience of ecosystems across the United Kingdom and beyond.

There is no single solution to the environmental crisis, but many solutions together can make a big difference.

From habitat restoration and rewilding, species reintroduction, raising public awareness and fighting for social justice, equality and diversity, there are many people and projects already making our planet a more diverse and sustainable place. We believe that this challenge requires novel, innovative and courageous solutions, which engage as many people as possible.

We strive to increase our impact by working together with the RSPB. Youth Council members are keen to contribute to current RSPB projects, through providing comments and advice on proposals, contributing to projects in our local area and acting as ambassadors who can promote the work of the RSPB to the public. Being a bold, ambitious, and incredibly talented group, we also seek to propose our own ideas to the RSPB.





# Young people

Young people trying to tackle the environmental crisis face many barriers. The lack of professional experience and senior titles limits our “credibility”, whilst the financial cost of pursuing the conservation profession, via education and volunteering, acts as a barrier to involvement with conservation organisations.

Despite this, young people have a lot to offer. We possess a huge range of skills, including some that are more difficult for older generations, such as a command of social media. Having grown up in an era of change, we are utterly familiar with not only the challenge of sustainability, but also the challenges of social equality and inclusion.

We come with fresh perspectives on an organisation’s work, infectious optimism, and boundless enthusiasm for positive change.

Integrating young people more closely into the RSPB’s work will be hugely beneficial for both. For the Youth Council, it is an opportunity to gain experience, get to know the people and processes behind the RSPB and create more impactful change. But for the RSPB, we are a golden resource. We have insights to guide strategy, enthusiasm to drive projects and ideas to supercharge the work of the RSPB, emboldening its approach and widening its appeal to new audiences. We can help take the RSPB into the future.





# Community

Community is our lifeline. It runs through every organism on this planet. If something lives, it is connected to the web of all the other living things. It is this connection which holds us together. It is this connection which sustains us; which keeps us living.

Yet we are slowly losing these opportunities to connect. To nature, to other people, even to ourselves. Our society is built in such a way that we no longer have access to the natural world, the time to meet new people, or the energy to push ourselves and experience everything to the fullest.

All of these are fundamental in our fight for a fairer world – both for people and the planet. If our ability to make change is challenged – if we feel alone, tired and aimless – our power is weakened.

We believe that community is a vital force in our fight for our planet and for our lives. Communities can stabilise, motivate and sustain us. We at the Youth Council want to bring this power back to communities. To help them reconnect, thrive and become self-sufficient. To find a new way of living which puts people and the planet first. To allow us to connect again.





# Optimism

How often do you feel lost? Or scared? Or overwhelmed? How often do you think about how much work there still is to do? How often does it feel too much? It is all too common for us to feel like this. We are all terrified of what the future might hold; what we see happening around us. Although we may be scared that we've already failed, our efforts to create a better world are not pointless.

We don't want to be paralysed by fear anymore. Fear holds us back. It prevents us from being bold, radical and creative. It keeps us tame and quiet.

But we believe that every one of us is a strong, powerful, untameable force. We are fighters.

Our ability to hope, to imagine a better way, to care for people and the planet is our greatest strength. As the Youth Council, we promise to fight with compassion, with love and with hope. It is our mission to make you feel that this isn't pointless, that you aren't alone in this fight. We have power when we stand together.

**Something better is out there. It is our time to create it.**





Thanks for reading!

If you have any questions or are interested in collaborating with us, please get in touch!



[Our website](#)



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The Youth Council are supported by the Youth Mobilisation team. For any other queries, please get in touch with the Youth Mobilisation Manager, Roberta Antonaci, on [Roberta.Antonaci@rspb.org.uk](mailto:Roberta.Antonaci@rspb.org.uk) or the Youth Mobilisation Officer, Emily Major, on [Emily.Major@rspb.org.uk](mailto:Emily.Major@rspb.org.uk).