

ARE YOU A YOUNG LEADER OR A STORYTELLER WORKING FOR A FAIRER, MORE SUSTAINABLE FUTURE?

If so, this is for you!

FUTURE RISING FELLOWS 2023 CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

APPLICATION DEADLINE EXTENDED TO JUNE 29, 2023 - [Apply here!](#)

About the Fellowship Program

The Future Rising Fellowship supports young leaders ages 17-25 who are working at the intersection of climate change, environmental justice, and gender equity. The program seeks out individuals passionate about making a difference and creating storytelling projects in these areas of focus:

1. Women and Girls in Conservation
2. Local Solutions

Fellows receive a 5,000 USD stipend and participate in a year-long program consisting of virtual workshops in storytelling, professional development and creative enrichment. Throughout the year, Fellows have access to experts: media professionals, journalists, educators, advocates, filmmakers, artists, academics, authors and climate scientists.

Each Fellow creates a narrative project during the course of their Fellowship, guided with practical support from the Future Rising team as well as external mentors and advisors.

These narrative projects can be fiction or nonfiction and can be created in any medium. To date, Fellows have made short films, podcasts, graphic novels, photo essays and long form articles - all related to climate change, environmental justice and gender equity.

More information about project requirements can be found in our 'Frequently Asked Questions' (FAQ) section on our website.

We strongly encourage you to read this Application Guideline in its entirety before completing your application. Please watch this [recording](#) of one of the INFO SESSIONS to learn more about the application.

Go to the [Girl Rising website](#) for updated information about the information sessions.

Please do not use AI language generators such as ChatGPT to write your application. Evidence of AI tools will result in your application being disqualified.

2023 COHORT SPECIAL TOPICS

The work of the 2023 Cohort will be focused around two topics:

3. Women and Girls in Conservation
4. Local Solutions

More information about how we view these topics is below.

Fellowship Topic #1: Women and Girls in Conservation

Climate change is having a severe impact on the Earth's natural systems including the depletion and degradation of natural habitats, acidification of oceans, biodiversity loss, and ecosystem collapse worldwide.

Climate change disproportionately harms those least responsible for its causes and it is girls and women who bear the greatest burden of its impacts. As environmental degradation increases, resources such as food and water become scarce. Ancient ways of life become untenable, and the delicate balance between humans and animals become stressed. This increases pressure upon women to find and provide food, water and fuel for their families, and also results in an increase in gender-based violence, forced marriage and human trafficking.

But there is a flipside to this story - one with hope. Despite being disproportionately affected in this way, girls and women are uniquely positioned to be vital agents of conservation. Women play a critical role in their community's relationship to their environment. Because of their roles as the managers of natural resources like food, water and fuel, women live close to nature and possess detailed, nuanced and deep knowledge about natural habitats, wildlife and the changing environment.

All over the world, girls and women are innovating and implementing new practices and methods of conservation, or rejuvenating and sustaining time-tested indigenous practices. When women take part in managing natural resources, there is an increase in collaboration, solidarity and conflict resolution. And a growing body of evidence shows that when women and girls are represented in conservation programs, there are improved outcomes and more equitable benefits for all.

The 2023 Future Rising Fellowship program seeks to support young leaders working on conservation projects with a gender equity lens, and/or young storytellers working on a project that is about girls and women working in conservation in a variety of roles. Those can include advocacy, community organizing, activism, scientific research or other forms of environmental conservation or preservation.

Fellowship Topic #1 Women in Conservation

Conservation takes many forms and can take place in any environment - including urban areas. This Fellowship is open to projects related to the conservation, protection, restoration and health of species, habitats, ecosystems and environments (urban or rural) anywhere in the world. We are specifically interested in supporting projects about girls and women who are leading these efforts.

We are open to stories about any aspects of conservation but require the stories to have a gender equity or girls' education element. These could include projects related to rewilding or restoring natural habitats, protecting wildlife (from sparrows to tigers), fighting against construction of dams or pipeline projects that threaten environmental health, land rights for Indigenous people, nature based solutions for ocean health, sustainable fisheries, local community based projects to preserve green spaces in urban areas. Fellows' story projects can be in any medium.

Examples of suitable projects could be:

- A photo essay following the work of a cooperative of women who are growing and replanting the mangroves near their coastal village.
- A short film about a group of school girls who set out to plant a million trees.
- A short animation about a local community's campaign to prevent the creation of a dam which would cause a local forest to be flooded.
- A comic book about an Indigenous girl's search for a rare species of coral in the ocean where she lives.
- An article about a group of young women volunteers in a crowded, polluted city, who work together to clean up a river.
- A podcast about young biologists' research about elephants and how to help protect them despite their diminishing habitat.

Fellowship Topic #2 Local Solutions

How do we define 'local solutions?'

Climate change is a global phenomenon but its impacts are hyper local. The solutions to climate change must therefore be local to suit the needs of specific environments and people.

Local climate change solutions refer to innovative projects, initiatives, or leadership efforts designed to address the impacts of climate change on specific communities or populations. It does not refer to policy initiatives aimed at whole countries or regions. Local solutions are aimed at adaptation, building resilience, improving well-being, and responding to the effects of climate change on the environment and people's lives.

We are interested in supporting projects about local initiatives, innovations and projects by, for, or about girls and women, that address the needs of a specific rural or urban community and/or young storytellers working on a story about local solutions that are by, for or about girls and women or gender justice in a local community.

Projects may be based anywhere in the world and in any kind of setting, urban or rural. They may be related to any environmental justice, climate adaptation or mitigation efforts led by or focused on girls and women's ability to adapt or mitigate the effects of climate change at a local level. This could be about agriculture, deforestation, conservation, biodiversity, rewilding, economic empowerment, environmental health, clean air or water, displacement or other direct effects of climate change.

We also recognize that climate change has many indirect impacts on girls and women. For example, gender-based violence and forced marriage increase as a result of the adverse impacts of climate change. These connections are often overlooked and so we welcome applications that connect climate change to hidden or indirect impacts. **We especially welcome projects that highlight the importance of girls' education to support climate adaptation.**

Examples of suitable storytelling projects about local climate change solutions could include:

- A long form article about a community-based reforestation project that helps to restore degraded lands by replanting trees or by using nature based irrigation techniques.
- A photo essay about local women-led small scale agriculture programs that promote climate-smart farming practices and the use of Indigenous drought-resistant crops.
- A podcast featuring small scale renewable energy projects that provide clean and affordable energy to households, schools and businesses.
- A short documentary about a young, female local community organizer who helps their community prevent the construction of a plastic dump site in their town.
- An animation video that tells the story of an urban school whose students create a local farmer's market to help their community access affordable sustainably grown food.
- A graphic novel about a local school teacher who helps a young girl to escape a child marriage after her family loses their farm due to drought.

About Future Rising:

Future Rising is a storytelling, advocacy and social impact program from Girl Rising. Its mission is to drive investment and support for girls' education and to harness the power of educated girls and women to tackle the impacts of climate change.