

How to apply

To apply, visit the [Young Champions website](#) and complete Section 1 of the [application form](#). You will need to identify a willing sponsor to complete Section 2 before the deadline at midnight GMT on 18 June 2017.

A sponsor is an individual who can vouch for the viability of your big idea and your ability to successfully implement it. He or she must be: (1) a senior staff person at a registered and reputable environmental or youth-focused organization; (2) a university professor; or (3) a senior staff person at a business that has received third-party recognition of its sustainability efforts.



Selection criteria

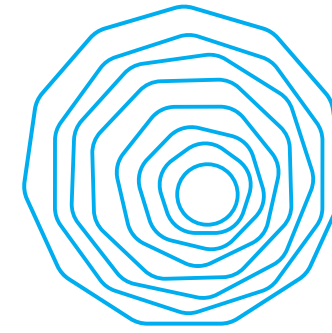
In the first stage of the selection process, all applications will be judged by Regional Juries according to the following criteria:

- 1. The 3 Ps** – The positive impact your big idea could have on the environment (planet) and society (people), and its financial viability (prosperity).
- 2. Demonstrated commitment** – Bonus points may be awarded if you have already attempted to implement your big idea and can report on any trial runs, prototypes, or preliminary research results.
- 3. The 3 Cs** – Evidence that you are a curious, courageous, and colourful individual.
- 4. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development** – The potential contribution of your big idea to the attainment of the environment-related UN Sustainable Development Goals.
- 5. Sponsor** – The strength of your sponsor's recommendation.



Further information

For more details on Young Champions of the Earth, please visit: www.unep.org/youngchampions



YOUNG CHAMPIONS OF THE EARTH





*If you have a big idea to protect or restore the environment;
if you have a vision for a more sustainable future;
if you have a strong track record of instigating change;
if you are unafraid of failure;
and if you believe in a bright future for our planet,
then you just might have what it takes to
become a Young Champion of the Earth.*



Young Champions of the Earth is a new initiative that aims to identify, celebrate and support individuals between the ages of 18 and 30 who have outstanding potential to create positive environmental impact.



Managed by UN Environment in partnership with Covestro, Young Champions stems from the long-running Champions of the Earth Award, which remains the UN's highest environmental honour.



*Starting in 2017, **six Young Champions**—one from each global region—will be selected annually to receive seed funding, tailored mentorship, publicity, and access to powerful networks.*

***If you win**, you will be expected to use this support to start implementing **your big idea**. We will also ask you to share your experiences through videos and blogs on the Young Champions website.*



The Prize

The six 2017 Young Champions of the Earth will receive:

- US\$15,000 in seed funding;
- Attendance at the United Nations Environment Assembly in Nairobi, December 2017, and the United Nations General Assembly in New York, September 2018 (all expenses paid);
- An introduction to over 100 environment ministers at the Champions of the Earth Gala Dinner;
- Publicity and recognition through online and global media;
- Access to high-profile mentors and customized training in communications, project planning, financial management, etc.
- Participation in an intensive, one-week entrepreneurship course in Europe in the first quarter of 2018 (all expenses paid).

The Young Champions will be required to contribute one blog post and one video per month between December 2017 and September 2018, so that the public can follow their implementation journeys on the Young Champions website.

Selection process

The selection process has three stages: preliminary, public, and final. The preliminary application period will run from 22 April to 18 June 2017. Each applicant will be required to submit responses to a series of questions and obtain a sponsor's recommendation. A total of 30 Regional Finalists—five per world region—will be selected and notified by mid-July.

Regional Finalists will be asked to respond to individually tailored questions and submit short videos pitching their big ideas. In August, members of the public will be able to view, critique, and rate the Regional Finalists' big ideas. This will inform the selection of 12 World Finalists by early September.

In the final stage of the selection process, a Global Jury will review the World Finalists' big ideas and choose six Young Champions (one per world region). The winners will be notified by the end of September and invited to attend the Champions of the Earth Gala Dinner in Nairobi on 5 December 2017. At this point, their names will be formally announced to the public and global media.



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