



**DARE TO
INVENT
THE FUTURE**
**YOUNG
CHAMPIONS
OF THE
EARTH**

INFORMATION
BROCHURE
2019



It's been said "Nothing's more powerful than an idea whose time has come." But one thing is more powerful: The people who make that idea a reality. The ones brave enough to leave behind old formulas. Who dare to invent the future.



Are you a change-maker, rain-maker, ground-breaker? Do you see opportunity, where others see crisis? Do you want to change the world?

The Young Champions of the Earth Prize aims to celebrate and support individuals aged between 18 and 30 with outstanding potential to create a positive environmental impact.

Global warming is forcing our societies, our economies and our world to change. Our way of doing business; our careers and job opportunities need to change too. With this change comes unprecedented opportunity to take action. For brave entrepreneurs and trend-setting role-models to carve their place in a new and greener economy; to pioneer revolutionary technology and radical innovation.

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 record of instigating change; if you are unafraid of failure; and if you believe in a bright future for our planet, then you might have what it takes to become a Young Champion of the Earth.

Launched in 2017, the Young Champions of the Earth Prize is a global initiative to identify, celebrate and support talented individuals. Managed by UN Environment in partnership with Covestro, Young Champions is inspired by the long-running Champions of the Earth Award, which remains the United Nations highest environmental honour.

Seven Young Champions—selected from every global region—will be chosen 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 implement your big idea. We will also ask you to share your experiences and advocate for your environmental cause through videos and blogs on the Young Champions website, or through media interviews. In parallel, up to 50 of the most promising applicants will be granted privileged access to an expert community of Covestro mentors. They will offer insights on topics ranging from communications and business development to project planning and financial management.

The Prize

The seven 2019 Young Champions of the Earth will each receive:

- **US\$15,000 in seed funding; attendance at a high-level UN meeting (all expenses paid);**
- **US\$9,000 in funding to effectively communicate and capture your idea and broadcast the stories of hope and change you are catalysing on the ground.**
- **An introduction to dignitaries at the annual Champions of the Earth Award Ceremony;**
- **Publicity and recognition through online and global media and media interviews;**
- **Access to a community of UN and Covestro experts offering insights and mentoring; and**
- **Participation in an entrepreneurial training program.**
- **The winners will be required to contribute blogs and vlogs over the course of a year so that the public can follow their journeys on the Young Champions website.**

Mentoring

Up to 50 applicants who clearly articulate their skills requirements and demonstrate a strong willingness to learn will be granted privileged access to an online mentoring program. They will have the opportunity to seek technical guidance and professional advice from a broad community of experts availing themselves as mentors. Topics of strategic relevance such as communications, project planning and financial management, will be explored in depth with the aim of strengthening the viability and impact of mentees' ventures.

How to Apply

If you have at least 6 months' experience working on a big idea to protect or restore the environment and will be aged between 18 and 30 on 31 December 2019, then you are eligible to apply. Just enter the application portal on the Young Champions website, answer a few questions and upload a referee's letter of endorsement. The deadline for submission is midnight GMT on 31 March 2019. A referee 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 Process

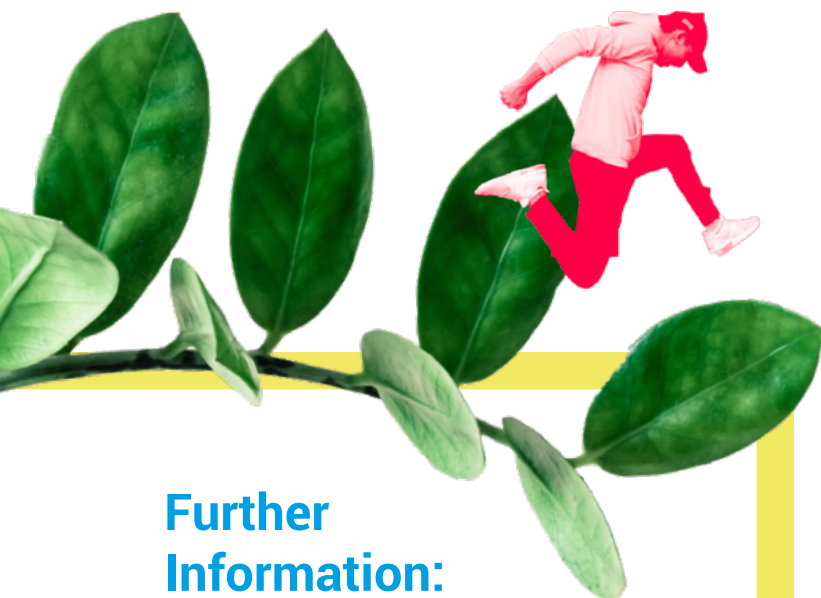
The 2019 selection process has three rounds.

- 1** The open call for applications will run from mid-January to the 31 March 2019. Each applicant will be required to submit responses to a series of questions and upload a referee's letter of endorsement.
- 2** Regional Finalists—drawn from every world region—will be short-listed by UN experts and requested to submit short videos pitching their big ideas.
- 3** In the final stage, a Global Jury will review the Finalists' big ideas and choose seven Young Champions of the Earth. The winners will be invited to attend the Champions of the Earth Award Ceremony in late 2019, at which point, their names will be publicly announced.

Selection Criteria

In the first stage of the selection process, all applications will be judged by United Nations experts 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** The 3 Cs – Evidence that you are a curious, courageous, and colorful individual.
- 3** Demonstrated commitment – It is important that you have already attempted to implement your big idea for at least 6 months and can cite results to date.
- 4** Endorsement – The strength of your referee's recommendation.



Further Information:

For more details on Young Champions of the Earth, please visit:

unep.org/youngchampions