



## High Seas Youth Ambassadors - Role Description

**POSITION:** High Seas Youth Ambassador Program

**SUPERVISOR:** Director of Youth Engagement

**TIMEFRAME:** January 26 - December 31, 2026

Applications will be accepted from youth ages 17-22 based in the following regions for the duration of the program timeframe:

- **Africa:** Senegal or Uganda
- **Asia:** Bhutan, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, Nepal, or Uzbekistan
- **Australia**
- **Latin America:** Colombia or Peru

### BACKGROUND

EarthEcho International is an international nonprofit that envisions a world where every individual, from all backgrounds and experiences, has the opportunity and tools to create a healthy and thriving environment. EarthEcho's mission is to build a global youth movement to protect and restore our ocean planet, a critical part of creating a sustainable and equitable future for all. Established by explorer and advocate Philippe Cousteau, Jr, in honor of his father, Philippe Cousteau Sr., and grandfather, legendary explorer Jacques-Yves Cousteau, EarthEcho reaches more than 2 million people in 146 countries, providing original education content, immersive training and leadership experiences, and active collaboration networks free of charge for youth and the teachers and community leaders who work with them. Our signature programs equip individuals and groups to identify local needs, develop plans, and take action starting in their own communities as part of a larger, connected global network of changemakers.

Since its founding in 2011, the High Seas Alliance (HSA), with its 70+ non-governmental members and the International Union for Conservation of Nature, has been working towards protecting the 50% of the planet that is the high seas. As the region of the global ocean that is beyond national jurisdiction, the high seas includes some of the most biologically important, least protected, and most critically threatened ecosystems in the world. HSA members work together to inspire, inform and engage the public, decision-makers and experts to support and strengthen high seas governance and conservation, as well as cooperating towards the establishment of high seas protected areas.

### SCOPE

The future sustainability of life on earth and the health of our planet is inextricably linked to the health of our ocean. Global concern regarding environmental degradation and anthropogenic

impacts on marine ecosystems has led to urgent calls for countries to meaningfully protect at least 30% of the ocean by 2030 (30x30) to preserve what remains of ocean biodiversity and restore the ocean to abundance.

Increasing ocean protections in areas outside of national boundaries, commonly known as the High Seas, is critical to the success of these efforts. The High Seas cover 64% of the global ocean, including some of the most ecologically vital, yet critically threatened and least protected areas on Earth. After two decades of discussion, the new agreement under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction (BBNJ) – known as the High Seas Treaty, sets the stage for the world's first cohesive, international and legally binding framework to specifically protect high seas biodiversity.

As of September 2025, over sixty countries have ratified the High Seas Treaty, ensuring it enters into force and becomes international law. With this key milestone met, it is critical to ensure additional countries ratify the Treaty to drive fair, effective, and inclusive ocean governance as the Treaty is implemented. Activating and engaging youth on a global scale is key to building the momentum needed to advance these ratifications and build widespread support for the Treaty's implementation.

Through the High Seas Youth Ambassador program, EarthEcho International and the High Seas Alliance are collaborating to mobilize six youth Ambassadors (ages 17-22) in strategic locations around the world to plan and execute innovative campaigns to build the public and political momentum needed to advance additional Treaty ratifications and support the Treaty's implementation.

This year-long, paid opportunity will be managed from EarthEcho International's U.S.-based office in collaboration with the High Seas Alliance.

#### **KEY DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:**

The primary Ambassador objective is the development and execution of a campaign to build support in their country and region for the ratification and implementation of the High Seas Treaty. Ambassadors will receive campaign planning training and mentorship from EarthEcho International, a sub-grant to support campaign implementation, and background resources to assist with their plans through the High Seas Alliance and its partners. Through this process Ambassadors will commit to the following:

- Participate in bi-weekly virtual meetings from January 26-mid-March with the EarthEcho team and Ambassador cohort to gain background information, including an initial virtual briefing with the High Seas Alliance team, regional coordinators and/or local partners to gain an understanding of the needs and opportunities for advancing the High Seas Treaty in their country/region and a campaign planning training led by EarthEcho International to outline initial campaign plans and deliverables with a focus on meeting the needs identified during the initial briefing. From April-December 2026, calls will shift to monthly check-ins on campaign progress and additional professional development.

- Join bi-weekly High Seas Alliance regional working group calls as schedules allow to gain regional strategy insights and share campaign updates.
- Develop a detailed campaign plan, timeline, deliverables, and budget with support and guidance from EarthEcho International (limited grant funds are available for plans if needed for supplies/materials, local travel, fees, etc.).
- Implement a campaign to mobilize support for the High Seas Treaty between March 15-December 31, 2026 and measure impact. While each campaign will be uniquely designed by the youth leaders, based on specific local needs, all Ambassadors will collaborate with EarthEcho International and High Seas Alliance to ensure campaigns have a communications element and a direct strategy to engage/reach elected officials with their efforts. Additionally all campaigns should include plans for:
  - Engagement of at least 1,000 people over the course of the year through campaign activities
  - Organization of at least one community based event or similarly impactful campaign element to build support for the High Seas Treaty
  - Recruitment of new members to EarthEcho's GenSea community who can continue to engage in ongoing High Seas related activations in the region during and past the Ambassador program timeline
  - At least one media article/feature published building support for High Seas Treaty
- Capture content (photos, video, media etc) throughout the campaign planning and implementation process to share collective impact.
- Share monthly campaign impact updates with EarthEcho International and the High Seas Alliance.
- To the extent possible, respond to and participate in additional event/media/presentation opportunities as needed to serve as a youth voice and expert on the High Seas Treaty and highlight the impact of program work.
- Participate in a virtual presentation to share the campaign impacts with members of the High Seas Alliance at the end of the Ambassadorship timeframe.

#### **REQUIRED QUALIFICATIONS:**

All Ambassadors should possess the following background and skills:

- Be between the ages of 17-22 years old at the time of application for the Ambassadorship
- Be based in their respective region for the duration of the program
- English language proficiency-all meetings will be conducted in English
- Comfort working remotely and communicating primarily through video conference and email

Ambassadors will receive \$3,400 USD in compensation for their work from January-December 2026 Payments will be made in two installments (a mid-point and final payment) upon successful completion of Ambassador milestones.

To apply, please complete the [High Seas Youth Ambassador Program Application form](#) by January 9, 2026 at 11:59pm EST. If you have any questions, please contact Sean Russell at [srussell@earthecho.org](mailto:srussell@earthecho.org).