



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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SUN VALLEY STUDENTS HOST ENVIRONMENTAL FORUM

*Youth activists from across the world convene to act
to build resilience for people and planet
July 23-25, 2019*

SUN VALLEY, IDAHO June 25, 2019—The Sun Valley Institute's Youth Council, a group of high school students from across the nation including the Valley's own Sun Valley Community School, The Sage School and Wood River High School, will organize the inaugural **Claiming our Future: Youth Action for a Resilient World** at the Argyros Performing Arts Center in Ketchum, paralleling the Sun Valley Institute's fifth annual Sun Valley Forum.

From July 23 to 25, high school students will unite to focus on sustainability and resilience, working to develop solutions to challenges we face locally and globally in food, transportation and plastic waste. Students are invited to apply online at sunvalleyforum.com/youth-forum.

"We see the changes to our world today and know that our future is at risk, so we're taking action now, not waiting to make a difference," said Ruby Horton, an Archer School for Girls student in Los Angeles and founder of the Youth Council. "I've attended the Sun Valley Forum in the past and I am excited to meet others who are as passionate about sustainability as I am, and see what we can all accomplish together at the Youth Forum." Thomas Morrell, another Youth Council member and student in Seattle attended the Sun Valley Forum with his father and was inspired by the speakers, but noticed a lack of youth representation. He is excited to engage with like-minded peers.

"We all know the future is uncertain for many reasons that are beyond our control, but our actions are within our control," said Maria Mendoza, a freshman at the Sun Valley Community School and member of the Youth Council.

"Today's youth will be the most affected generation by climate change in history. As Park Guthrie with Schools For Climate Action says, 'climate change is a generational justice issue.' We are the ones that will live with the harsh reality that today's leading climate scientists have warned us is coming. Climate change will not discriminate between a high school student and a grandmother. Climate change doesn't know the difference between a Republican or a Democrat. We should be united by this huge problem, but instead we are bickering over it. I have never been more proud or more terrified in my life. I am proud of how loudly my generation is speaking up against this problem, but I am terrified that it might be too late, that the world has been silent for too long. I am anxious and afraid but I am so very hopeful too," says Kate Roney, a junior from Sonoma Academy in California and also a member of the Youth Council.

“Young people are fearlessly owning their future with urgency and effectiveness as models for all of us. Just this past March, the courageous Nobel Prize-nominee, 16 year-old Greta Thunberg, led 1.4 million young people on a global climate strike,” said Aimée Christensen, founder and Executive Director of the Sun Valley Institute. “The Youth Council asked for the opportunity to convene like-minded student leaders and change makers, and have co-designed the three-day summit. We are honored that the Sun Valley Forum will feature youth leaders on our main stage and support these young leaders by connecting them to global experts and innovators with whom they can take their work forward.”

Participants will learn from and collaborate with Sun Valley Forum speakers, including the Secretary-General of the Inter-Parliamentary Union, the Geneva-based network of parliaments worldwide; Leonardo DiCaprio Foundation Executive Director, Justin Winters; Filmmaker Louis Psihoyos (“Racing Extinction” and “The Cove”); Meagan Fallon, CEO of Barefoot College International, teaching women to install solar across south-east Asia; Laura Liswood of Women World Leaders whose members are current and former heads of state; Admiral Paul Zukunft, the 25th Commandant of the U.S. Coast Guard; award-winning author and Contributing Editor to *Rolling Stone*, Jeff Goodell; impact investors from BlackRock, BNP Paribas/Bank of the West and; and IBM/The Weather Company’s Global Lead Meteorologist, Steve Wismuller. Students will cap off the event by rafting the Salmon River.

SCHEDULE & PROGRAM

2019 Sun Valley Forum Schedule

Tuesday, July 23: Opening Sessions, Reception & Dinner

Wednesday, July 24: Forum Sessions, Reception & Dinner

Thursday, July 25: Forum Sessions & Closing Dinner at Galena Lodge

Friday, July 26: Adventure Day

Please see the Sun Valley Forum [website](#) for more information. More than 60 globally recognized speakers will attend the Forum. The full list of speakers is available [here](#).

The Forum is open to the public and remaining tickets are available for purchase with more information available at: www.sunvalleyforum.com. Scholarships are also available.

Media interested in attending should email Annie Keenan at Annie@sunvalleyinstitute.org.

Please see more information in our Forum Overview and on the media resources page [here](#).

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About the Sun Valley Institute

The Sun Valley Institute is a catalyst for lasting quality of place, advancing economic, ecological and social resilience by pioneering transformative solutions, driving awareness and convening leaders and innovators for global and local impact. Sun Valley leaders founded the Institute in the spring of 2015 to protect and enhance local quality of place for future generations of residents and visitors alike, and to serve as a resource for communities everywhere. From the original Native American inhabitants to the miners and ranchers of the valley’s early days, from the Union Pacific engineers who built the world’s first chairlift to those who challenge themselves in its mountains and rivers today, Sun Valley is about history and tradition, grit and perseverance, well-being and quality of life. The risks, assets and values of Sun Valley make it the perfect home for an institute dedicated to resilience. For more information, please visit: www.sunvalleyinstitute.org and follow the institute on Twitter @SunValleyInst and Instagram at @SunValleyInstitute and Facebook at facebook.com/sunvalleyinstitute.