



CHILDREN  
OF  
THE EARTH

INSPIRES & UNITES  
YOUNG PEOPLE  
for PEACE  
WORLDWIDE

WWW.COEWORLD.ORG

Dear Applicant,

We welcome your interest in joining Children of the Earth (COE) as a COE Hub Leader. You are about to embark on a beautiful life-altering journey that will give you the tools to connect with your peers by sharing on a spiritual and practical level.

COE Hub Leaders and members gather together as a loving, conscious, non-judgmental group of people motivated by the love they feel for all life. They create opportunities to grow spiritually, learn from one another, take action and bring about positive change in their own communities and ultimately in the world.

COE will support your Hub by giving it validity and recognition through our United Nations accreditation with the Department of Public Information, a Non Governmental Organization. COE's newsletter, website and presentations at international events, allow you the opportunity to inspire others by sharing your thoughts and practical ideas for change. You will receive the COE Handbook that gives models for spiritual awakening and can be used during your events.

COE Hubs are one of the two programs Children of the Earth supports. Our second program is the development of Social Action Chapters, which are youth humanitarian projects conceived as a result of an inner transformation. COE's programs focus on building the youth spiritual movement for world consciousness. Our vision is that one by one, young people become spiritually awakened, socially responsible, and active peace builders; inspired and united by our organization. Learn more about our history and our programs at [www.coeworld.org](http://www.coeworld.org).

Attached are materials, which will deepen your understanding about COE Hubs.

In Peace,  
The COE Team

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## Frequently Asked Questions

### **What is a COE Hub?**

An COE Hub is a regional meeting point where we gather and learn to regenerate and foster our spirituality. We connect, inspire and learn from the collective spiritual wisdom that exists within ourselves, our peers and local wisdom sources. COE Hubs have three main focuses: Connection, Reflection, and Action.

### **Who Can Start or Join a Hub?**

People who feel a calling to share their ideas and views. Those who seek to connect with youth and elders to increase their awareness of their own spirituality and help raise global consciousness.

### **What do Hubs Do?**

They gather together and partake in activities that foster spiritual growth, unity, love of nature and artistic expression.

### **Where are COE Hubs Located?**

There are currently Hubs in Africa, Asia, Europe and North America.

### **How Many Members are Needed to Form a Hub?**

There are no minimum or maximum restrictions for Hub membership.

### **Where Can the COE Hub Gather?**

You do not need to have an official Headquarters for your Hub. Your Hub may meet in any space that you deem appropriate for your gatherings.

### **How Can We Generate Interest in Young People to Join the COE Hub?**

COE has a website and a facebook page where an invitation to your gatherings can be sent virtually. You may also post flyers or personally invite people to your gatherings.

### **When do Hubs Gather?**

As frequently or infrequently as the Hub Leader and members desire.

### **Do all COE Hubs Meet at International Gatherings?**

There are occasionally international gatherings organized and hosted by one of the Hubs. Any Hub Leader or a representative of that Hub may join these international gatherings and partake in the program to share and explore our spiritual consciousness and pass on the message that we, as humans, are one family.



## **Does COE Give Financial Support to Hubs Worldwide?**

COE can support you with ideas on how to raise funds to finance your gatherings and post your initiatives on our website and on facebook to inspire people to donate. Please see the Website Resources for fundraiser ideas.

## **What is the History of COE Hubs?**

COE was invited to attend the World Spirit Forum in Arosa, Switzerland in 2005. During this event COE's founder brought together a group of youth who strived to deepen their inner spiritual lives in communion with others. They shared a passionate belief in the need for an organized movement, which led to the formation of the World Spirit Youth Council (WSYC).

WSYC members have been holding gatherings worldwide to inspire each other to work toward deepening their spiritual consciousness and commit to inner and outer transformation towards a more peaceful and harmonious society.

The WSYC believes that we are all one universal family. Members of WSYC stand up for their highest values and take action to create a better world. The council stands as a symbol of power, unity and the sharing of responsibility for our planet and all its sentient beings.

Our generation is looking for answers to questions of existence, ways of understanding our spiritual heritage as well as discovering our purpose in life. WSYC believes it is our responsibility to find sustainable solutions to current problems and discovering new ways of living that are in accordance to humanity's highest ethics and values and in harmony with creation as a whole.

It was the members of the WSYC that originally started Hubs in their communities. Today it is not only members of WSYC that are starting Hubs; it is anyone who is interested in spiritual transformation to bring about effective peacebuilding in the world. We look forward to you being part of this movement!

Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has.  
– Margaret Mead, US Anthropologist (1901-1978)

## **Role of a COE Hub Leader**

1. Organize Hub gatherings that inspire peers to deepen their spiritual consciousness.
2. Network with and invite local spiritual seekers to give talks, meditations or workshops.



3. Introduce the work of COE to new Hub participants.
4. Invite Hub members to lead the group in meditations.
5. Introduce your group to different spiritual traditions to bring greater understanding and unity while respecting diversity among all races and beliefs.
6. Report on your events. Through our newsletter articles and website international youth may be inspired by your work.
7. Keep an attendance list of all Hub participants.

### **Application for a COE Hub Leader**

The following questions will allow COE to get to know you better. There are no wrong answers and know that we will guide and support you through the process of starting a Hub in your area. Please e-mail your answers to [nina@coeworld.org](mailto:nina@coeworld.org)

1. What is your name?
2. What is your date of birth?
3. How do you define spirituality?
4. How do you explore your own spirituality?
5. What qualities would you expect a Hub Leader to have? How would you fulfill these expectations?
6. Do you have experience planning events and/or workshops? If so please share your experiences.
7. Where are you located?

Please include a letter of Reference.

### **Highlights of COE Hub Activities**

*The following will tell you a little bit about the COE Canadian and Swiss Hubs and how different leaders have shaped the atmosphere of their local Hub.*



The **Toronto Hub** was formed in 2008. The youth involved in this Hub have gathered together to share meals, music, and listen to inspiring speakers share their life experiences. They have spent time engaging in the sacred ceremonies of the Mohawk people, engaging with Father Terry Gallagher who exemplifies The Golden Rule in his life work, and listening to a Holocaust survivor who is now an interfaith minister. They have also had the honor of being led in a non-violent facilitation training led by Ken Hood, PhD (COE Board Member). Their vision of spending time together is to help each other explore a connection between spirituality and humanitarian work. They have fun and fulfilling monthly gatherings and look forward to more shared experiences. Mark Harris, the Hub Leader, has traveled to Nepal as a volunteer to help Jimmy Lama, COE Chapter Leader, with his educational projects.

The **Swiss Hub** was created in the summer of 2009 during a gathering of 26 youth at The Center of Unity in Schweibenalp near Brienz, Switzerland.

Their vision is to create a space in which young people can come together and bring a change independent from culture, background and religion. On the basis of open-mindedness, interest and honesty they seek to develop individuality and a sense of community. Some of the tools to achieve this are creativity, sharing and conscious reflection. Their wish is to create a space for young people who are curious to find answers to their questions within themselves, and to help realise their ideas and potential. They want to reach people who are willing to work on themselves and through this bring a change to the world.

Some of the activities of the Swiss Hub have included workshops on making decisions using sociocracy; activities in nature such as swimming, camping and hiking to experience a sense of oneness; guest speakers to lead meditations, art, music, body consciousness through pantomime and healing workshops. Members of the Swiss Hub also take part monthly in local events in major cities of Switzerland where they offered Free Hugs to passers-by. This Hub has also fundraised to support existing COE Chapters' international peace projects. The Swiss Hub met monthly during the past year to plan the week-long event in August 2010 "Be The Change Now" and is currently organizing a gathering that is to take place in Guatemala in 2012 where youth and elders will come together to find means of co-creating a positive future.

Our home, Centre for Unity Schweibenalp, is open to your joining our gatherings through out the year. Stay connected with us on the website [www.schweibenalp.ch](http://www.schweibenalp.ch).



The **Ghana Hub** organized their first gathering in Accra, Ghana in March 2010. This gathering was organized and led by Lawrence Yealue, a founding COE Hub member and COE Chapter Leader Samuel Kwesi Fianko. Dr. Harriet Nettles, a longtime elder with COE traveled to the conference from Liberia. Her expertise in Peace and Conflict Resolution inspired those who have experienced conflict to share their stories. Participants traveled from Ghana, Liberia, Guinea, Niger, Sierra Leone and Nigeria, shared their spiritual experiences and discussed on how to avert the looming crisis between muslims and Christians in west Africa. Others shared from their hearts, speaking of the burning desire to move past good words to spirituality in action. Plans have been made to meet monthly.

The **Togo Hub** was founded by Samuel Ayivi in June 2010. The Hub's vision is to provide a space where children and youth from different religions and ethnic groups can come together to build relationships and a sense of unity, exchange their views on spirituality and learn peace building and communication skills, so as to become peace messengers in their communities. Samuel planned successful youth gatherings in 2005 and 2008 with 150 participants and in 2010 despite of the floods that affected Togo and Samuel getting infected by malaria, thanks to COE's humanitarian appeal, Samuel received the proper medical care and could organize a one week gathering with 65 Participants. During his camps, Samuel teaches computer skills and first aid to people in his community and also assists children with their studies by fundraising for school supplies and uniforms to help very poor children carry on with their studies.

We recognize the possibility of our COE Hub models to be applied in other parts of the world and so we would be more than happy to support you in developing your own local initiatives. From our capacities, connections and contacts we can offer ideas, inspiration and assistance.

## MISSION

Children of the Earth inspires and unites young people, through personal and social transformation, to create a peaceful and sustainable world.

## GUIDING PRINCIPLES

- Trust your intuition
- Demonstrate dignity and respect
- Communicate with honesty and clarity
- Assume the good intentions of others
- Support shared leadership
- Celebrate diversity



- Be inspired to take risks
- Allow decisions to emerge and embrace the process
- Understand the whole is greater than the parts
- Strive Support sustainability both personally and environmentally
- Honor agreements and take ownership for outcomes

## CODE OF ETHICS – ACTIONS BASED ON SELFLESSNESS & LOVE

LOVE - for the form, voice, thoughts and spirit of each person

RESPECT - for differences

HONESTY - of our feelings, thoughts and behaviors to be transparent

TRUTH - in feelings and thoughts

COURAGE - to take a stand

HUMILITY - to reflect inner peace

WISDOM - to be a seeker

### **World Spirit Youth Council Members**

#### **Corina**

During my time with COE I had a wonderful realization that peacebuilding is the way in which I can best express my spirituality and that this is my own path for making a difference in the world. Thai buddhist monks taught us meditation and the Canadian Six Nations wise men and women taught us of their sacred traditions and ways of life.

Through our own experience and accounts, we hope to inspire other youth from national initiatives for Ministries/Departments of Peace and from our own countries to participate in the activities of COE and WSYC. Young peace workers need to have a holistic life and become aware of their spirituality, an important element in the work for world peace -- the sense of



COE offers great opportunities to achieve that awareness, in an international environment and tapping into the ancient peace practices of humanity. However, it is the journey of each person and peace starts with self-realization.

*Corina Simon has been with Peace Action, Training and Research Institute of Romania since September 2005 after finishing her BSc in Computer Science at the Babes – Bolyai University, Romania. She coordinates the Cooperative Peace Project in Moldova-Transdnistria at PATRIR. She is Secretary of the Global Alliance for Ministries and Departments of Peace, an international network promoting the concept of Ministries and Departments of Peace in governments. Corina is also affiliated with the WSYC since February 2008. Currently, she is finishing a MA in Research Design and Data Analysis in Social Sciences, Babes-Bolyai University, Romania.*



## Jimmy



In September 2006, I found myself joining the World Spirit Youth Council at its international meeting in Katmandu. Since then I have been journeying with them to join hands with many individuals around the world in pursuit of creating a more beautiful world where humanity can live in love, harmony, gratitude, respect and truth blossoming into our spiritual activism.

Our gatherings have been shedding a light on how we can intertwine the materialistic and spiritual world for a happy combination. We greatly feel that Mother Earth is suffering and we need to take actions to heal her. We do simple things like hugging, smiling, group meditation, and heart-storming. We have experienced that

After all those wonderful experiences with WSYC and COE, I am now trying to retrain my habits and look into new ways of how I can effectively dedicate part of my time to help people around me improve their situation. I am currently involved in helping construct a new school in my remote village to improve facilities for a better education. Every time I meet a new group of people, I show them pictures of my WSYC friends and our activities. This sparks a spiritual discussion. I tell children stories of my travel experiences with the WSYC and talk about the positive things we do.

*Jimmy Lama comes from Nakote, a far off Nepalese village in the Himalayas. Jimmy went to the Yangrima School in a nearby village at the age of six, which was isolated from the coverage of modern facilities such as transportation, electricity and communication. Jimmy was the first from his entire village to attend a school where English was taught. He lived with his grandparents because his parents were forced by their economic circumstances to work in India. Jimmy comes from an indigenous ethnic group called Yolmo who speak the Yolmo dialect. His parent's sent him to an English middle school, where he learned modern subjects and was also close to his community to practice the local culture.*

*Jimmy went to Katmandu in 2001 to pursue his higher studies. He found himself weak and vulnerable to his values in the camouflaged environment. Jimmy gathered with friends to form a group of ex-students of the school in Katmandu to help each other during difficult times. Slowly, they saw themselves growing in community as a whole. Later that small group turned into an NGO called YESS (Yangrima Ex-Students Society) and Jimmy became the president in the*



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*following years (2003-2007). All of these experiences have led Jimmy to seek for a greater spiritual learning.*



**THE GOLDEN RULE**

**BABA'I FAITH**  
Lay not on any soul a load that you would not wish to be laid upon you, and desire not for anyone the things you would not desire for yourself  
*Baha'u'llah, Cleanings*



**HINDUISM**  
This is the sum of duty: do not do to others what would cause pain if done to you  
*Mahabharata 5:1517*



**BUDDHISM**  
Treat not others in ways that you yourself would find hurtful  
*Udana-Varga 5:18*



**CONFUCIANISM**  
One word which sums up the basis of all good conduct... loving kindness. Do not do to others what you do not want done to yourself  
*Confucius, Analects 15:23*



**ISLAM**  
Not one of you truly believes until you wish for others what you wish for yourself  
*The Prophet Muhammad, Hadith*



**TAOISM**  
Regard your neighbour's gain as your own gain, and your neighbour's loss as your own loss  
*T'ai Shang Kan Ying P'ien, 213-218*



**JUDAISM**  
What is hateful to you, do not do to your neighbour. This is the whole Torah; all the rest is commentary  
*Hillel, Talmud, Shabbat 31a*



**SIKHISM**  
I am a stranger to no one; and no one is a stranger to me. Indeed, I am a friend to all  
*Guru Granth Sahib, pg. 1299*



**JAINISM**  
One should treat all creatures in the world as one would like to be treated  
*Mahavira, Sutakritanga*



**ZOROASTRIANISM**  
Do not do unto others whatever is injurious to yourself  
*Shayast-na-Shayast 13:29*



**NATIVE SPIRITUALITY**  
We are as much alive as we keep the earth alive  
*Chief Dan George*



**UNITARIANISM**  
We affirm and promote respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part  
*Unitarian principle*



**CHRISTIANITY**  
In everything, do to others as you would have them do to you; for this is the law and the prophets  
*Jesus, Matthew 7:12*



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