



Local Actions for Global Goals

Buddies Without Borders Online Forums

February 8 - April 12, 2025

Update as needed: Feb 5, 2025

Contact: BuddiesWithoutBordersOnlineForums@GlobalEducationDestinations.org

For Reference: www.GlobalEducationDestinations.org

Application Form: The application is now closed.

Program Fee

If accepted, the program fee for this forum is \$50 usd. Merit-based scholarship seats may be available to underrepresented countries. To inquire, please email us your school's website, proof of your nationality and a copy of your current report card. *(*All current BWB Clubs have one scholarship seat for a club representative. Club representatives must be nominated by the club moderators **by Monday, January 20, 2025** while seats are available.)*

Overview

Students aged 15-18 worldwide are invited to brainstorm ideas to solve challenges that impact us all.

Think Globally, Act Locally. Global Goals can only be achieved by global citizens with local sensitivity. Given the opportunity, what change project will you create in your community to help make the world a better place? In the Spring 2025 Forum, we are calling for project proposals that will change the world by changing your local community.

Details

Forum participants will choose an area of focus from the following three categories to create their personal Local Action Proposal in this forum competition:

- 1) Sustainable Lifestyle: cafeteria food, fountain drinks, recyclable bottles and papers, lights in empty classrooms, transportation to school events, gently used books and uniforms... - what we consume, donate, throw away or recycle on campus contributes to many environmental issues. Do you have fresh ideas on how to reduce waste and increase sustainability in school? (SDG 1, 2, 6, 7, 12, 13, 14, 15)
- 2) Peace & Justice: genders, grades, ethnicities, races, nationalities, classes, languages, religions, ages... - perspective sharing and trust-building between groups on campus are keys to personal mental health and institutional strengths. From mentoring systems to tutoring programs, do you have fresh ideas on how to increase

communication and collaboration on campus to bring empathy and understanding for all? (SDG 3, 4, 5, 10, 16, 17)

3) Outreach & Partnerships: nonprofits, businesses, associations, research institutions and government agencies...
- understanding the capacities and needs of your local organizations, and how they may fit into your school's mission, is the key to becoming part of the bigger network. From fundraising to awareness campaigns, do you have fresh ideas on what can be done on campus to build a strong partnership with a local organization? (SDG 8, 9, 11, 17)

Three - four students from different countries who have chosen the same category will be grouped as a team to share research and brainstorm ideas to build their individual proposal, covering the following process:

- Identify problems/needs
- Map support and assets
- Brainstorm solutions with peers on campus
- Present ideas in the forum and capture feedback
- Submit the final proposal for ranking

Global Sessions: Students meet online via Google Meet weekly for 60-90 minutes. Two identical sections are created to accommodate the time zone difference (**Section A Teams meet at noon Coordinated Universal Time (UTC) and Section B Teams meet at 7 PM UTC**). We assign students to teams to create diversity. Students are allowed to visit the other section and meet more buddies if interested.

Each Global Session will feature workshops, breakouts and team meetings. There are no make-up sessions. **All Global Sessions are mandatory**- if an absence is unavoidable, guardians must give early notice to their teammates and by emailing BuddiesWithoutBordersOnlineForums@GlobalEducationDestinations.org, and make plans for recovery. Any participant who misses two consecutive global meetings without advanced notice will be dropped from the Forum competition.

Google Classroom and Chat Space: Students must participate in a dedicated Buddies Without Borders Online Forum Google Classroom group to find resources, receive assignments, post research and discuss ideas. Each team will have a private Google Chat Space for task coordination and documenting individual contributions. Team Coaches award Pioneer Points based on students' attitudes and behaviors toward their buddies.

Each student has the right to issue a ghosting alert to their team coach should there be any concerns. We will in turn alert the counselors and guardians. After the third warning, the nonresponsive team members will be removed from the team and be disqualified from any Awards. **A Score Sheet** will be used to keep track of each participant's status.

Future forums will feature topics based on the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals:

<https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/sustainable-development-goals/> such as Innovation, Climate Change, Ending Poverty, Public Health and beyond.

Key Dates

- February 1 - (asynchronous) Pre-forum mingle in Chat Space. (SDG-themed trivia tag game - answer a SDG-related trivia question and ask a new one)
- February 8 - (asynchronous) Team Chat Space opens. (Introduce yourself and compare your time zone and meeting availability with your teammates by using World Time Buddy and Lettus Meet.)
- **February 15 Global Session** -
 - Google Classroom opens.

- Tech & Tools by Forum Director
- Workshop #1 by Scorer: Five-Point Structure - start with personal observations and end with asking questions. Proper citations.
- Team Time: Meet & Greet (confirm time zones and team time. Preview Forum schedule and note your potential conflicts for teamwork including exams and holidays. Decide your team name. How are you different/similar?)
- Warm-up Week starts: practice the 5-point structure. Classroom Post Prompt (What is your favorite community service experience? How is it benefiting your community and how does it support the Global Goals?)
- **February 22 Global Session -**
 - Kick-Off Speaker: Engaging Your Community - Tyeisha Grier, Partnership Director, Network Delaware
 - Warm-up Week Conclusion (Rising Stars recognition).
 - Team Time: Discuss your Local Action Project ideas and potential approach with your teammates. How is your service project uniquely impactful on which SDGs?
 - Landscape Week starts: Classroom Post Prompt (what is the current global status of your chosen SDGs? Why do you decide to focus on them?)
- **March 1 Global Session -**
 - Landscape Presentation (5 minutes): Current global and local status of your team's chosen SDGs track.
 - Team Time: Plan your Landscape Presentation (the current global and local status of your team's chosen track. 5 minutes with visual aid.) Note your progress in your Team Space to hold each other accountable.
 - Feasibility Week starts: Classroom Post Prompt (Contact your potential stakeholders and discover their strengths and goals. Share your Analysis in the Google Classroom. What have you learned and what else do you need to find out?)
- **March 8 Global Session -**
 - Guest Speaker: Mapping Assets - Laeia Washington, Community Activist, Make Me Pretty Project
 - Team Time: Brainstorm with your teammates and start forming your final team presentation and personal proposal.
 - Ideation Week starts: Classroom Post Prompt (Watch all teams' Landscape recordings, practice active listening skills and give your SWOT feedback.)
- **March 15 Global Session -**
 - Deliverables Guidelines Q&A: Yihung Mohs (guidelines for Final Deliverables? Format, citation, length. Submission deadlines.)
 - Coach Workshop: Nika Rieffe, Powerful Presentations Q&A
 - Team Time: Prepare your final presentation. Review your content and flow. Who will do what by when? Note your decision in your Team Space to hold each other accountable. (Peer Points awarded. "Yellow flag" warning to ghosting nonparticipants issued.)
 - Final Push Week starts: Classroom Post Prompt (Respond to the SWOT feedback your team received. How can you use this feedback to your advantage?)
- **March 22 Global Session -**
 - Final Presentation Rehearsal (5 minutes. Live feedback): (How do your team's Local Action Projects collectively support your chosen SDGs track?)
 - Team Time: Review feedback and finalize your final deliverables. ("Red flag" notification to ghosting nonparticipants. Nonparticipants will receive "incomplete." Their teammates will receive "Extra Miles" points.)

- March 29 - no session.
 - Team Time: Review feedback and polish your final deliverables (Individual Local Action Proposal; Team Presentation; Personal Journal for My Journey).
 - The Score sheet is closed and Top Five are notified.
 - All submissions (recording, executive summary, best team screenshot) are due by midnight UTC on Sunday, March 30. Teams that cannot complete their final deliverables by midnight UTC on Sunday, March 30, will be disqualified. Teams' final submissions that are not within the guidelines will be deducted by 10 points.
- March 31 - People's Choice Voting Online opens. Panelists' ranking process begins.
- **April 5 - Global Session**
 - Team Presentations Viewing / Celebration / Reflection sharing
 - Top Five Speeches Viewing / Voting
 - Complete personal Journey for My Journey
 - What's Next
- **April 12 - Award Ceremony**
 - The Best Representative, The Best Team, People's Choice Team, Pioneer Award Winners give speeches.
 - Prizes Q&A: BWB Clubs. Internship Program.

Awards

All participants who complete the program successfully will receive a Program Certificate. There will be four categories of Awards:

- **The Best Team Award:**

The total team point average will determine the top five teams in the Final round. A team of international panelists will then evaluate the final deliverables based on their proposals' 1) creativity 2) feasibility and 3) potential impact. The key performance indicators (KPIs) are:

- Global Session Attendance - awarded by Director
- Google Classroom Posts - awarded by Scorer
- Pioneer Points - awarded by Coaches
- Peer Points - awarded by fellow forum participants

- **The Top Five Award:**

Top Five Representatives are chosen based on personal points earned.

- **Best Representative Award:**

The Best Representative is voted by their forum peers among the Top Five. If there is a tie, the final winner is determined by the ranking of his or her team's final presentation. The Best Representative will be the spokesperson for the Buddies Without Borders Online Forum and conduct an interview with a forum speaker or an official to be featured on the GED website.

- **The BWB Pioneer Awards:**

Students who have exhibited consistent leadership throughout the Forum by inspiring others to work for the common good will be nominated by their team coaches to receive the BWB Pioneer Award to lead their own BWB Clubs. BWB Clubs have been building global connections and implementing local changes in more than 20 countries since 2020. In the Spring 2025 forum, one Pioneer Award will be given to every participating country that currently does not have a BWB Club based on students' performances.)

- **The People's Choice Award:**

All Team Presentations and the individual Local Action Proposals will be posted on our website for the public's votes. The team that receives the highest votes wins the People's Choice Award.

Prizes

- **Scholarship Seats for the Following Forum:**

All award winners (Top Five, the Best Team, the People's Choice Team, Pioneer Winners) will be offered a transferable scholarship seat for the following forum, while seats last. The scholarship seat is transferable to any teenager 13 - 18 from anywhere globally and may be donated to an under-represented country. However, a teacher recommendation and a current report card will be required.

- **BWB Club (2025-2026):**

BWB Clubs are now operating in more than 20 countries. Club members meet online weekly to exchange ideas and make international friends.

All Pioneer nominees are qualified to apply to lead a BWB Club on campus (pending school approval and without scholarship). In the Spring 2025 forum, one Pioneer Award will be given to every participating country that currently does not have a BWB Club based on students' performances.) to launch a BWB Club in September 2025 (\$600.00 USD value)

- **Internships (2025-2026):**

Students who have successfully completed their Forum competitions and BWB Club projects will be invited to apply for a seat on our International Internship Team. There are three tracks of the internship opportunities (Business, Law, Public Health) organized by Leadership Initiatives and sponsored by Microsoft and Starbucks. The Internship will start in August 2025 and conclude in May 2026.

Purposes

1. If you are an IBDP student, we meet your Learning Outcome Requirements.
2. If you are an AP Capstone student, you may use data from the forum to base your findings.
3. Understand SDG challenges.
4. Connect, discuss and collaborate with participants around the world online, under the guidance of a college student team coach or an educator.
5. Learn how to create proposals and potentially win recognitions that may benefit the future college application process.
6. Practice English speaking, listening and writing in a formal setting.
7. Successful participants will be considered for future college student team coach jobs based on performance evaluations.

8. Be invited to establish a BWB Club which allows more students to connect and practice English during the school year. BWB Club schools enjoy Forum discounts and many other benefits to students, teachers as well as schools. [Click here for details.](#)

Specifications

Each Forum is attended by 40 - 60 students from 20-25 countries. For more on our past participants and collaborators, please visit www.GlobalEducationDestinations.org

- **Technical Requirements:**

Audio and Video capability to participate in the weekly live Global Sessions on **Google Meet**. Account in **Google Classroom** and **Google Chats** for asynchronized forum discussions and research posts.

- **Parental Consent:**

A parent or a guardian needs to sign off on the application form to acknowledge that the student will be communicating with other program participants on social media. A Score Sheet and a Final Outcome Report are made available to all guardians and counselors.

- **School Counselor FYI:**

The student's school teacher or counselor will be kept informed of the student's progress.

Deliverables

- A 5-minute Team Oral Presentation (with a visual aid) on Local Actions for Global Goals. (What is the status of your chosen SDGs? What are your team members' local action proposals? How will they impact the world?)
- A 3-4 pages individual written Local Action Project proposal that includes the following components:
 - Identify needs
 - Identify resources
 - Identify solutions
 - Identify any further considerations
- Each student must reflect on his/her learning via a private Google Form (Journal for My Journey) throughout the Forum.

Contributors

Please visit our **"About Us"** webpage for a full list of speakers, supporters and reviewers.

- Kick-off Speaker: Tyeisha Grier, Partnership Director, Network Delaware
- Guest Speaker: Laeia Washington, Community Activist, Make Me Pretty Project
- Advisory Board/Panelist: Hon. Teta V. Banks, Ed.D, Chair, Executive Committee of World Federation of United Nations Associations
- Advisory Board/Panelist: Andrew Hand - Former Admissions and International Schools Outreach Officer, Australia
- Panelist: Angolwisye Paul Mwakisye - Senior Assistant Director of Admissions, NYU, Abu Dhabi, UAE

- ELL Lecturer (pre-recorded): Anh Nguyen- ELL Teacher, Hanoi Academy, Vietnam
- Inquiry Lecturer (pre-recorded): Shane Hanna- IB Coordinator, Villiers School, Ireland
- MUN Lecturer (pre-recorded): Nicole Bohannon - ESG Research Associate at ISS, USA
- Sponsor: Marshal Bailly - Executive Director, Leadership Initiatives, USA
- Forum Scorer - Yohana Fontenla, University Student, Economics & Politics and Business Leadership, Forward College, Berlin, Germany
- Team Coach - Filip Manda, University Student, Rijksuniversiteit Groningen, Netherlands
- Team Coach -Veronika Raiffe Titov, University Student, Sciences Po Paris, France & Columbia University, USA

Forum Reference Material

- Sustainable Development Goals:
<https://www.un.org/en/common-agenda/sustainable-development-goals>
- Individual Capacity Inventory:
chrome-extension://efaidnbmnnnibpcajpcglclefindmkaj/<https://resources.depaul.edu/abcd-institute/publications/Documents/Workbooks/CapacityInventories.pdf>
- Building Community Capacity:
https://www.researchgate.net/publication/364339119_Community_Capacity_Building
- Partnership Development:
<https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/0267257X.2023.2247418#abstract>
- Developing an action plan:
<https://ctb.ku.edu/en/table-of-contents/structure/strategic-planning/develop-action-plans/main>
- [Personal Action Plan Example \(Network Delaware\)](#)
- [Action Project Planner Example \(BWB Clubs\)](#)
- AI's Impact on SDGs Forum Outcome Report:
 Outcome Report - AI's Impact on SDGs - Buddies Without Borders Online Forum