

SOL Nation August Newsletter



From Sol Nation <hello@solnation.org>
To Steve Johnston <sjohnston@tuesdayforumcharlotte.org>
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SOL Nation Newsletter

August 2025



Eighth Annual

Give 8/28

...Because Black Giving is Magic!

Give 8/28 is a national day of giving dedicated to supporting Black-led nonprofits that are creating meaningful change in their communities. It's a powerful reminder that your support—whether big or small—can directly uplift the voices, ideas, and impact of Black leadership.

This year, we're inviting you to stand with SOL Nation as we continue our work to protect the environment, promote climate justice, and empower historically excluded communities.

How can you support?

- Make a one-time donation towards our goal of \$5000, to fuel our ongoing work in environmental and climate justice.
- Support our future community leaders by providing them with a place to learn, create, and lead on environmental justice in their communities, building a new generation of changemakers.

Your support helps us close the green gap, amplify community-led solutions, and build a future where sustainability and equity go hand in hand.

Support Sol Nation

BLACK AUGUST



WEST CHARLOTTE
HIGH SCHOOL

CALMING
ROOM

SUPPLY
DRIVE

FOR BACK
TO SCHOOL

NEED SUPPLIES BY
THE AUG 25TH

At SOL Nation, we believe that every student deserves a safe space to recharge, reflect, and find peace during their school day. That's why we've been hard at work creating a Calming Room at West Charlotte — a space designed to promote mental well-being, emotional regulation, and a sense of belonging.

Emotional regulation is more than just managing feelings — it's the foundation for focus, resilience, and healthy relationships. When students have a place to pause, process their emotions, and regain their sense of balance, they are better able to learn, connect, and thrive in and out of the classroom. Our Calming Room will provide exactly that: a sanctuary where students can reset before returning to their day with a clearer mind and stronger sense of self.

We're almost done, but we need your help to put on the final touches! We've created an Amazon Wish List with the last few supplies needed to make this space truly complete.

💛 Join us in making this room a sanctuary for students — browse the list and give what you can today.

[Browse Amazon List](#)

Become A SOL Nation Member

By becoming a Sol Nation Member, you directly support our work in grassroots organizing, environmental education, policy advocacy, and sustainable solutions that uplift historically marginalized communities.

Your support helps us build a future rooted in justice, resilience, and climate equity.

[Learn More](#)

Featured Programs & Events



Growing The Next Generation of Environmental Leaders

Cultivating Leaders for Change: Recap of the 2025 Sol Nation Summer Ambassador Program

This summer, the Sol Nation Summer Ambassador Program sparked a new wave of young environmental justice leaders—leaders who didn't just learn about the issues, but rolled up their sleeves, connected with their communities, and built something meaningful together.

Over eight weeks, the Peace Ambassadors followed a three-phase journey:

The Air – Awareness & Voice

In the opening weeks, ambassadors explored the roots of environmental justice with guidance from community leaders like Rafaella Vaca-Tricerri of CleanAire NC and Dr. Fushcia-Ann Hoover. They learned about environmental racism, green infrastructure, and urban planning—and discovered that being an ambassador means using your voice to shift the story and inspire change.

The Land – Mobilization & Project Planning

By mid-summer, ambassadors began designing their own environmental justice projects, backed by a \$3,000 budget. They collaborated, practiced conflict resolution, and refined their ideas through workshops and feedback from local leaders.

The Water – Systems & Storytelling

The program's work culminated in the Seeds of Change Block Party at Allegra Westbrooks Regional Library—a joyful event featuring gardening, tree seedling giveaways, and storytelling stations. Thanks to partnerships with Trees Charlotte and generous community members, neighbors left inspired and ready to take sustainability home.

Leadership at the Heart

The 2025 program was led by Enjolie Bush, a Charlotte-based environmental educator and advocate. Her structure, creativity, and compassion kept the ambassadors grounded in purpose while encouraging bold ideas and collaborative action.

Looking Ahead

While this year's program has ended, the seeds—both literal and figurative—will continue to grow. Next summer, Sol Nation will build on this foundation of leadership, creativity, and community connection.

For the land. The air. The water. The people.

They are the movement.

[Read Full Blog](#)

[Support Our Future Leaders](#)

Community Clean Up & Canvas
August 30th | 10am - 12pm



Community Clean Up

From Streets to Solutions: Where Sustainability Meets Community Care.

August 30th | 10am - 12pm
Location: Historic Westend | Address TBD

Volunteer Sign-up:
bit.ly/ccu0830
Volunteers will need to arrive by 9:45am



solnation.org | hello@solnation.org

[Learn More](#)

[Sign Up to Volunteer](#)

Why Community Clean Up?

Black communities deserve clean spaces with breathable air and free of trash.

SOL Nation would like to thank everyone who came out to support the start of this important initiative.

Together, we're not just cleaning streets—we're building stronger, healthier communities and fostering conversations that drive real change. Your efforts are helping to create a future where every neighborhood can thrive.



Everyone deserves the opportunity to enjoy the community they live in.

Everyone deserves to not just live in their community, but to enjoy it. A neighborhood should be more than just a place to sleep—it should be a space where people can gather, relax, and feel proud of their surroundings. Too often, Black and Brown communities are overlooked when it comes to clean, green, and welcoming public spaces. Residents shouldn't have to leave their neighborhoods to find parks worth visiting, streets free of litter, or spaces designed for leisure and connection.

Investing in and caring for our own communities means creating places where people want to spend time, not just pass through. When a neighborhood is clean and well-maintained, it fosters pride, safety, and a stronger sense of belonging. Everyone deserves access to beauty, peace, and joy—right where they live.



Community News



Turning Passion into Impact: Reniah's Work with SOL Nation

Reniah Carroll, a senior at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte, is pursuing dual degrees in Environmental Studies and Geography. Growing up in Fayetteville, NC, she spent her childhood exploring wetlands and local trails, sparking a lifelong passion for nature. This early connection to the environment led her to work in the veterinary field, caring for both domestic animals and injured wildlife.

In her academic journey, Reniah has focused on environmental justice, urban planning, and sustainability, with a strong interest in projects that restore native landscapes, improve waste and stormwater infrastructure, and empower communities through accessible data and outreach. As a Fellow with SOL Nation, she has integrated geographic methods and participatory mapping to design sustainable solutions that address inequities in urban environments. These real-world experiences have deepened her commitment to helping neighborhoods build lasting environmental soundness and resilience.

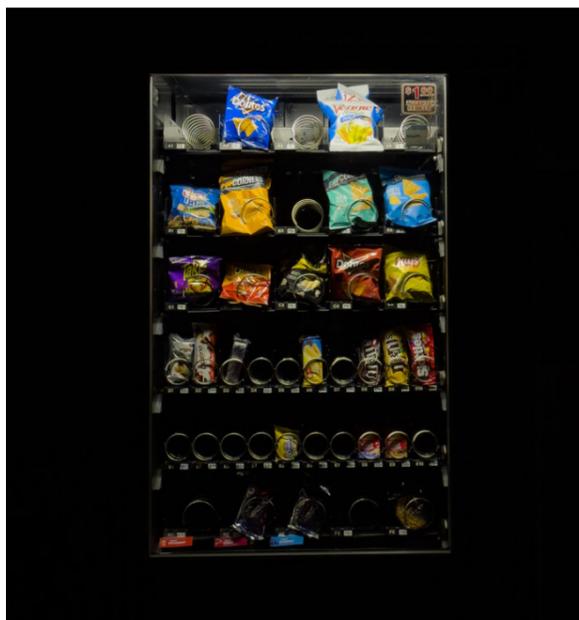
In her short time with SOL Nation, Reniah has already made a remarkable impact. She leads the Eco-Renaissance Project — a movement for environmental dignity, economic empowerment, and revitalization in Charlotte's Historic West End. She also coordinated the organization's summer Community Clean-Ups, which achieved the largest turnouts in SOL Nation's history. The most recent event even drew coverage from WFAE, highlighting her innovative work tracking litter and public trash cans across Charlotte through an app she developed using Survey123.

Reniah looks forward to continuing her work with SOL Nation, building connections, and fostering communities where both people and the environment can thrive.

Black August 2025: How Communities Across The Country Are Commemorating Radical Black Activism And Liberation

Bookstores, reading groups and community hubs are creating intentional space for healing, learning and political action during this month.

[Read Full Article](#)



COMING SOON Environmental Justice Is Food Sovereignty Documentary

SOL Nation is proud to announce our upcoming documentary, created in collaboration with Tony 180 Productions — Environmental Justice Is Food Sovereignty. This powerful film sheds light on the realities of food deserts, the quality of food in underprivileged neighborhoods, and the systemic lack of access to healthier options.

Through heartfelt interviews and on-the-ground storytelling, the documentary features voices from local changemakers, including the team at Deep Roots CPS Farm — a family-run urban farm in Charlotte founded by first-generation Black farmers. Their mission transforms underutilized spaces into thriving hubs of sustainable food production and community connection.

We also speak with members of The West Boulevard Neighborhood Coalition, a community-driven organization representing more than 13,000 residents in Charlotte's West Boulevard corridor. Their collective vision: an inclusive, sustainable future where neighbors are empowered by their roots, not limited by them.

This documentary doesn't just tell stories — it calls for action. Together, we can reimagine our food systems, advocate for environmental justice, and cultivate communities where access to healthy, affordable food is a right, not a privilege.

Stay tuned for the release date and exclusive screening details in our next update.



More Swag, More Solutions.

Shop SOL Nation's online store! When you shop our swag each purchase supports our continued work to better the land, the air, the water and the people.

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