Hey there! Did you know that a whopping 418 million kids around the world eat school meals every day? And many more eat snacks brought from home and other foods while at school.

You might be wondering why people should care about school food with everything happening in the world right now. Well, school food is not just about filling stomachs, it’s super important for children’s health and social life too!

School meals can even benefit members of the community! But wait, there is more: did you know that school food can also be made more environmentally friendly and help efforts to fight climate change? How great is that?

Now, here comes the challenging part. Not all schoolchildren across the world get to enjoy these fantastic benefits. And we need to do something about that! We want to know what’s important about school food for students like you, and we want you to help us spread the word about the right of kids to enjoy healthier and more sustainable food in schools. Are you up for the challenge?

Who are we looking for?

We are looking for five students from all over the world aged 10 to 17 that are enthusiastic about nutritious school food and everything related.

What would a school food advocate do?

School food advocates will help the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the World Food Programme (WFP) better understand what schoolchildren expect and think about their school meals, meal time experiences and foods available in schools. We will share this knowledge with our partners to make sure we can build school food programmes that respond to your needs. This will also support the important work of the School Meals Coalition.

The advocates will in their own words promote children’s rights to nutritious and more sustainable school meals, have their voice heard during global events (such as the global Junior World Food Day event), record videos to share their experiences, and more. Your voices and efforts will help echo the importance of school meals to young people and governments around the world.

Advocates will have the opportunity to attend coaching sessions with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the World Food Programme staff on healthier and more sustainable school meals and on effective communication. Advocates will also receive a surprise gift bag.

How to apply

So, are you interested and ready to become a school food advocate? If so, share with us:

- a fun photo of you with your favourite food or school meal;
• a short 1-minute video on why you are passionate about this topic (please read the specs below); and
• the subject release form, filled-in with the help of your parent or guardian, to give us permission to use these materials at events, on our website, and social media platforms.

Send ONE email (not more than 10MB) to School-Food@fao.org, including the forms and photo as attachment, and the video as a link to a cloud storage (Google Drive, Dropbox, etc.). For further information, please feel free to reach out to us by writing an email to the same email address provided.

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Deadlines
The final date to submit applications to be a School Food Advocate is 31 January 2024.

Good luck!

Your video
Record a short 1-minute video in which you tell us why you are passionate about making school food healthier and more sustainable. You do not need to state your name or any other information in the video – just focus on the message and be creative!

Videos submitted by those not selected as advocates may also be used for other communication purposes.

Video technical specs

General
• Length: up to one minute.
• Languages: videos in English, Spanish, French, Italian, Arabic, Russian and Chinese are welcome (if possible, please provide your script for videos not in English).
• Plan your answer, practice, record as many takes as needed, and send us your best one!
• Please remember to provide raw, unedited and non-branded footage, so it can be compiled with other submissions in one final video.

Video
• Keep it horizontal.
• Keep your recording device at eye level and look directly into the camera.
• Don’t zoom in to adjust the framing, simply place the camera in the best position instead.
• Ensure the lighting is adequate and avoid backlights (bright windows, lamps, etc. behind you).
• Keep the recording device still by placing it somewhere stable (see some examples below).

Audio
• Avoid background noises and make sure your voice is clear.
• The space does not have to be absolutely silent, but avoid having any loud, constant or echoing noises around you.
Subject release form

In exchange for consideration received, I, [______________________________________], hereby
irrevocably and unconditionally give my permission to the Food and Agriculture Organization of the
United Nations (FAO) and the World Food Programme (WFP) to use, reproduce, publish and distribute for
non-commercial purposes, my name, photographic likeness and/or video in any format and through any
medium whatsoever, to promote the activities of FAO and WFP, including but not limited to publications,
posters, audio-visual materials, webpages presentations, campaigns, publicity material and any other
lawful use concerning the same. In connection to the foregoing, I agree that FAO and WFP, at their own
discretion, have the right to change, edit and or treat the photographic likeness and/or video. I hereby
grant FAO and WFP the right to superimpose text or quotations on the photographs.

I understand that I will not receive compensation for the use of my name, the photographic likeness
and/or videos in any form.

I understand that my name, the photographic likeness and/or video may be used by FAO and WFP,
without any further consultation with me, for the above-mentioned purposes, in any and all countries of
the world.

By signing this Subject Release form, I acknowledge that I have completely read, fully understood and
agree with the above conditions.

Signature:
Address:
Birth date:
Email address:
Date:

If subject is under 18 years of age:

I, [______________________________________________________], parent/legal guardian of the above named
child do hereby give my consent without reservation to the foregoing on behalf of my child.

Signature:
Relationship to the minor:
Email address:
Date: