

JUNIOR RANGER SUMMIT REPORT
Wildniscamp am Falkenstein, Zwieslerwaldhaus
12-13 December 2008

Grafenau 3.02.2009



EXPECTED OUTPUT:

1. GUIDING PRINCIPLES
2. RULES FOR JR BRAND
3. COMPONENTS OF JR PROJECT AND CAMPS
4. NETWORK: Training, Communication, New activities.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES & VALUES OF THE JR PROGRAMME

The JR project must consider or should be based on:

- Experiential, practical, fun and inspirational activities in protected areas, and managed by Rangers, according to the idea of “learning by doing”;
- Is a non discriminatory programme, which requires a professional approach and high quality standard (*to be defined and eventually monitored / controlled by EUROPARC*);
- Aspire to high environmental standards (*to be defined and eventually monitored by EUROPARC*);
- Addressed to promote international exchange, to develop positive, cooperative and social skills, and to encourage the active citizenship of youths (ex. ethos and natural respect);
- Connection between EUROPARC protected areas and “local” young people.
- Cooperation between Rangers – Parks – EUROPARC;

RULES FOR JR BRAND

EUROPARC Federation coordinates the JR programme, which is available only for members. Parks interested in starting a JR project should agree on the values, terms and conditions defined by EUROPARC. (The privilege of managing the JR project can be revoked). All legal and practical aspects to protect and manage the JR brand should be defined by EUROPARC (ex. Logo: color, dimension, font...).

COMPONENTS OF JR PROJECT

ESSENTIAL

- The Park must be member of EUROPARC;
- EUROPARC “authorizes” Parks to run JR projects;
- Activities are addressed to children and youth, starting from - at least -11 years old;
- The activities are coordinated by the park and managed by the local Rangers (or equivalent in each Country: to be clarified);

- The activities should provide real nature conservation work experiences, but can also include cultural and social topic, and most of them should be done in nature;
- A 5 days programme is the minimum required in each park (it can be a camp or different days activities);
- Follow up activities must be planned by the Park Authority;
- Parks running JR activities should be linked with EUROPARC Federation, and give regular feedback;

RECOMMENDED

- Cooperation with other local associations (ex. scouts...);
- Uniform and other equipment for JRs;
- JR programme should become part of the ordinary park work (e.g. environmental education department) managed by Ranger Service in collaboration with other bodies of Park Authority;
- Involvement of parents, partners and local communities should be encouraged;
- A certificate or award should be adopted;
- The activities should have a regular frequency;
- Involvement of JR in EUROPARC activities (where and when possible... e.g.: Annual Conference)
- Network of parks running JR programme and of European JR should be created and supported by EF;
- Network of rangers managing JR programmes should be supported (ex. Training);
- At least one international camp each year;

INTERNATIONAL JR CAMPS: rules and contents

- The International Camps activities are organized and planned by the hosting park, in agreement with EUROPARC Federation;
- Park interested in hosting an Int. Camp should send an application to EUROPARC Federation (deadline ...possibly an year in advance);
- The Int. Camps last at least a week, and English is the official language. (Mentors and organizers should consider that not everybody speaks good English: find ways to facilitate communication);
- Programme should be clear for all mentors participating, and flexible in case of necessity (be ready for plan B);
- Programme must include: icebreaking, activities to discover and know the park, local environment and the culture of the place; games and fun activities; practical work in nature, and activities to learn the work of local rangers;
- EUROPARC supports Camp organization with: grants for travel costs, registration and general information for participants; one representative from Europarc Federation will participate at the Camp;
- Costs of the camp are covered by the hosting park; travel costs and plans are covered and managed by participants;
- Camp Organization: one (or two) camp-leader, good staff and some volunteers; camp rules and guidelines; high environmental standards and natural setting; practical settings (insurances, first aid emergency, infrastructures, local catering, toilets – showers...)
- Camp organisers should be aware of cultural sensitivities, particularly around meals and other practicalities.

- Mentors coming from the different countries should support the organizers and actively participate in the activities; they select participants and send registration form, organize travel... (Meeting with Mentors and camp leader are recommended at the beginning and the end of the Camp);
 - A risk-assessment for the camp is required;
 - Int. Camps are great opportunity to set up meetings and summit for JR Mentors: recommended.
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HOW EUROPARC COULD SUPPORT THE PROJECT

- Training activities for Rangers and Park Staff responsible for JR's
- Communicating benefits of the project to Parks direction, Europarc Sections, decision makers, influencing political opinion...;
- Fundraising and grant;
- Providing a sort of Project Toolkit, best practice collection;
- Set up the new JR Website as useful tool and platform to promote exchange of experiences, documents and to support the network between Rangers and Mentors and between Junior Rangers (e.g. chat forum);

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