



# 15<sup>th</sup> International Junior Ranger Camp

## “Discover the Diversity in Europe’s Parks”

### Gauja National Park, Latvia

#### 10<sup>th</sup> -16<sup>th</sup> July 2016

### Invitation

EUROPARC together with the Nature Conservation Agency of Latvia and Gauja National Park Foundation are organising the **15<sup>th</sup> INTERNATIONAL JUNIOR RANGER CAMP**.

Junior Rangers, with the support of their adult rangers and mentors, will have the opportunity to learn more about nature and the role of protected areas, by doing practical outdoor in the fantastic scenario of the Gauja National Park in Latvia. The camp will be a great chance to discover this part of Europe with excursions, games, concrete nature conservation experiences on the field: the best way to have fun meeting old and new friends. Through multiple activities, participants will discover the different biotopes of Gauja NP and, from an historical point of view, the importance of human activity and its impact (both positive and negative) on the environment.

The camp will also be a great chance for Rangers to meet and discuss together future initiatives to further promote active citizenship for nature conservation among young generations, and to improve the Junior Ranger programme in protected areas across Europe.

More information on the Camp programme and activities are available on [our website](#). You can stay connected with the Europe [JR network on facebook](#).

### In brief

- 14 - 17 year old youth from Junior Ranger programmes in European protected areas
- around 40 participants from 10 different countries
- 2 Junior Rangers and 1 adult ranger/mentor per protected area;
- EUROPARC membership of the protected area is necessary;
- Deadline for registration: 14<sup>th</sup> of May 2016, to be done on EUROPARC website
- Confirmation of participation: as soon as we start receiving applications!

More details concerning the camp will be given in the coming months. Further information can be obtained from the EUROPARC staff ([d.dechanterac@europarc.org](mailto:d.dechanterac@europarc.org)).

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### Terms of reference

#### Time and Location

The International Junior Ranger Camp 2015 will take place in the Gauja National Park (Latvia), from the **10th (arrival day) to the 16th July (departure day)**.

#### Accommodation

The camp is hosted at the Recreation centre "Brūveri" Sigulda, in a quiet area, surrounded by forests, situated at the entrance of the National Park and with direct access to the first hiking trails of the Gauja river valley! Accommodation will be in several nice cottage houses.

#### Participants

The camp is addressed to youth of 14-17 years old, being already actively involved in the Junior Ranger programme of their park and who must speak good English, be highly motivated and prepared for the camp. Their active contribution will be expected!

#### Programme

Participants will mostly enjoy outdoor activities such as: hiking on Gauja river valley, canoe trip on the river Gauja, bog research and hiking in bog, research on cultural - historical territory of National park, introduction to local Latvian traditional crafts. Games, camp fires or traditional dancing will complete these outdoor activities. A full day will be spent in Kemeris National Park, which is about to start its first JR project!

#### Costs

Participants shall cover their own travel costs up to Riga international Airport. Accommodation and subsistence costs for the camp will be covered by the Latvian partners.

#### Registration

Candidates shall register using the **online Registration Form** and send the parental authorisation form signed as soon as registration is confirmed by EUROPARC.

Rangers and Mentors are responsible for Junior Rangers and their care, as is the protected area for making sure participants have their own insurance.

No more than 2 parks per country, represented by 2 Junior Rangers and one adult ranger, will be selected, unless there is still space available at the end of the registration period.

**Deadline to register is the 14th May 2016** (first come first served principle will apply!)

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### About Gauja National Park

Gauja National Park is an area characterized by outstanding nature formations of national significance, landscapes and cultural heritage landscapes untouched by human activities or nearly natural, a diversity of biotopes, abundance of cultural and historical monuments, and cultural environment. The Gauja River - which gives its name to the National Park - is known as the most beautiful river of Vidzeme region and whole Latvia. It is the only river out of the large rivers of Latvia, which begins and ends its flow in Latvia, of which 1/5 or 93.5 km are in Gauja National Park. The valley of the Gauja River started formation approximately one million years ago in the Quarternary geological period. Later, the Gauja River used to serve as a trade route and border river between the Livs (Finno-Ugrian) and Latgalians (Indo-European) lands.

### Junior Rangers in Gauja NP

One of GNP Foundation's goals is to support young people's involvement in environmental protection activities. Junior ranger movement in Gauja National Park was established in 2004. Junior rangers have helped to organize public events together with sophisticated nature inspectors. They have acquired knowledge, hiked most beautiful places of Gauja National Park and even carried out local and European level projects, involving youth from local non-governmental organizations. Also most experienced Gauja National Park Junior rangers have led environmental education lessons and creative workshops about nature to local communities and municipality inhabitants. Thanks to this longlasting experience, Gauja NP is supporting the development of a new Junior Ranger project in Latvia (Kemeru National Park).



**We would like to express here our full gratitude to the Gauja National Park for the great support to make this International Junior Ranger Camp possible.**