



16th International Junior Ranger Camp

"Team Nature"



17th - 22nd of July 2017 - Habkern, Switzerland

Invitation

EUROPARC Federation and the Swiss Rangers Association are organising the
16TH 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 work outdoors surrounded by the astonishing Swiss landscapes. The camp will be a great chance to discover this part of Europe with excursions, games and specific 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 Habkern 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 also stay connected with the European [JR network on facebook](#).

In brief

- 13 to 17 year old youth from Junior Ranger programmes in European protected areas.
- Around 50 participants from up to 13 different countries.
- 2 Junior Rangers and 1 adult ranger/mentor per protected area.
- EUROPARC membership of the protected area is necessary.
- Deadline for registration is 15th of May 2017; follow instructions on EUROPARC website.
- Confirmation of participation will be sent as soon as we start receiving applications!

More details concerning the camp will be given in the coming months. For further information, please contact EUROPARC staff (Fernando Pinillos - f.pinillos@europarc.org).

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Terms of reference

Time and Location

The International Junior Ranger Camp 2017 will take place in Habkern, Switzerland, from the 17th (arrival day) to the 22nd of July (departure day).

Accommodation

The camp will be hosted at the Chalet Alpenruh, which is located in the beautiful village of Habkern and surrounded by typical Swiss landscapes. The chalet has capacity for more than 30 Junior Rangers and their mentors.

Participants

The camp is addressed to youth from 13 to 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 enjoy outdoor activities and have the opportunity to visit some of the local artisans of the region. Furthermore, Junior Rangers will learn some of the Swiss techniques to maintain the alpine ecosystems and observe the abundant wildlife present in the region. Hikes, games, camp fires and traditional dancing will complete the activities, and a visit to Grimselworld is also scheduled for the end of the camp!

Costs

Participants shall cover their own travel costs up to Interlaken West Bus Station. Accommodation and subsistence costs for the camp will be covered by Swiss partners.

Registration

To register, candidates should:

1. Download the [Registration Form](#) from EUROPARC website.
2. Fill up, sign, and send a scanned copy to f.pinillos@europarc.org.
3. After registration is confirmed, send us the parental authorisation by post mail.

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 space available at the end of registrations.

Deadline to register is the **15th of May 2017** (first come first served principle applies!)

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About Habkern

Habkern is a municipality of the Interlaken-Oberhasli district, in the canton of Bern, Switzerland. Inhabited by 700 people, its name comes from the Old German and can be translated as “the place where there are many hawks”. Wildlife is abundant in the area, and the alpine meadows that extend all over the region provide an excellent pasture for farming cows. Farmers are an important group in the conservation of the natural values of the area, and they have been involved in the maintenance of the mountain meadows since old times. Habkern is located about 500 m over the lake Thune and near the river Lombach, which is sourceing from the Lombachalp. In this area you can find the moorlands, and it is the place where Junior Rangers will carry out the practical work.

Swiss Junior Rangers

Junior Rangers started their activity in Switzerland in 2010 and there are currently several groups operating in seven regions of the country. The groups are conformed by children between 7 and 15 years old and coordinated by local Rangers. To do such thing, Rangers must belong to the Swiss Rangers Association, which is also the responsible body for writing the basic guidelines that Junior Rangers have to follow. Every Junior Ranger group celebrates between ten to twelve meetings per year, and they are also involved in the Swiss Junior Ranger meeting. This meeting takes place every year in different places of Switzerland and gathers over 100 children and youngsters from all over the country. The latest edition of the meeting was celebrated in Interlaken.

Find out more about Swiss Junior Rangers in their [website!](#)



We would like to express here our full gratitude to the Swiss Rangers Association for the great support to make this International Junior Ranger Camp possible.