



EUROPARC

F E D E R A T I O N

Youth Involvement in PAs

Youth involvement in Protected Areas

Siggen Seminar 2019



Seminar Objectives:

- *Identify current needs, expectations, challenges and ambitions of Youth, PAs and Rangers;*
- *Review what is currently happening in terms of youth involvement in PAs;*
- *Find out and propose solutions;*
- *Review current programs and initiatives;*
- *Propose new actions and objectives for future;*
- *Focus on JR, Youth+ and Youth Manifesto.*



Youth involvement in Protected Areas Siggen Seminar 2019



Questions:

- Why are we doing all this?
- What are the benefits of Youth involvement?
- Are we going on the right direction?
- Are we implementing what we committed / what we have been asked?
- Are we producing concrete results?
- How can we better guide the process?



INVESTING IN YOUNG PEOPLE

The origins:

In 2002 – EUROPARC and 4 pilot parks, start the project “Junior Rangers: in action to preserve Europe’s Natural and Cultural Heritage”

60 students 12-18 years

Financed by the Bavarian Ministry Regional development and Environment.

Objectives:

Create a network of young people who contribute to nature protection acting as advocates of their PAs.

Raise awareness about natural, social, cultural and economic values of PAs.

Promote friendship among youngsters...

Junior Rangers: In Action to Preserve Europe's Natural and Cultural Heritage



INVESTING IN YOUNG PEOPLE

Progresses:

In 2006 20 parks involved. Among those:
Bavarian Forest NP, Naturwacht Brandenburg,
Lahemaa NP, Aiguestortes NP, Retezat NP,
Yorkshire Dales NP, Muritz NP...

Some **questions and challenges** for future
already identified soon after the initial project:

What follow up program?

Trainings for Staff?

Set up standards and framework at European
level.

JR logo and name protection

Grow the network and manage it...



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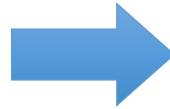
In 2008 we organised a summit in the Bavarian Forest to work on the future of the JR program:
JR guiding principles - JR program components - JR international camps - Networking and brand protection.

A follow up seminar organised with Rangers in Denmark in 2011: looking at youth involvement, JR **guidance**, Ranger needs and future actions.



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EUROPARC Youth Conference in 2013 – Hungary



Youth Declaration 2013:

- Youth representation: representation in boards, more JR opportunities, regular youth initiatives.
- Greater park network: among parks and with the public and private sector (investors).
- Green education in schools

INVESTING IN YOUNG PEOPLE

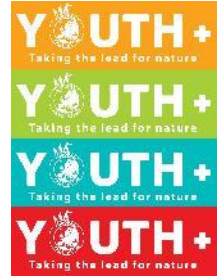
2014: EUROPARC strategy 2015-21

Objective: Increase the awareness and participation of Youth and Junior Rangers

Action: Engage the next generation in Junior Ranger and Youth+ programmes to provide opportunities for youth leadership and advocacy for PAs.



INVESTING IN YOUNG PEOPLE



THAKING THE LEAD FOR NATURE

Youth Camp 2015 - Aiguestortes National Park



The Aiguestortes Declaration:

We want to help and get more involved in our PAs! We can:

- Be powerful and passionate advocates for nature and PAs
- Volunteer to support environmental education programs;
- Give youth perspective on projects and policies;
- Be the voice of nature;
- Learn and work together and be the next leaders for nature conservation.

Too old is too late...

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Youth representation:

- Since 2016 Youth representative within EUROPARC Council: Laura Peters;
- EUROPARC Youth Council (Prealpi Giulie, Triglav, Bavarian Forest, Drent-Friese Wold, Nuuksio)
- Youth actively part of EUROPARC Conference



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Development of the Youth + programme

The **YOUTH+ Programme** supports youth to enable them to work with and represent Protected Areas, providing:

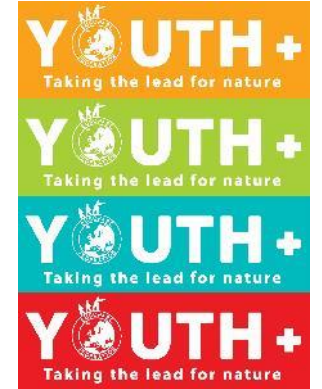
Leadership skills: to play an active role in supporting the work of PAs;

Communication skills: to speak on behalf of PAs

Nature Conservation skills: to contribute to the management of habitats and species in PAs

Advocacy skills: to become young ambassadors for PAs

- Guiding principles;
- Youth+ Handbook;
- First events lead by Youth



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The EUROPARC Youth Manifesto

Living - Learning – Working in PAs

A call for change in Rural Communities and Protected Areas

It is a source of ideas and inspiration for decision-makers in Protected Areas and rural communities to ensure the involvement and empowerment of young people.



**EUROPARC
Youth
Manifesto**

europarc.org/youth-manifesto
facebook.com/europarcyouthmanifesto

in support of:

year of young people 2018
"oládhna na h-óigridh" '88

YOUTH+
Taking the lead for nature

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Taking the lead for nature

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Young People make up to 20% of EU population! They are the decision makers of tomorrow...

The EUROPARC Federation's **Junior Ranger Programme** seeks to assist parks to involve young people aged 12-18 in the work of the park. In 2016, the programme involved:

- 80 Protected Areas
- 19 countries



with

Explore... Learn... Take Care!



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The **Junior Ranger Programme:**
Educational programme
Addressed to youth residents in PAs
Involving small group
Rangers/Mentors crucial knot between park and young people
Partnerships with schools, scouts, env org...
Contacts with parents and friends
Regularity and continuity of activities



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Activities:

Regularity and continuity – minimum 5 days programme;

Outdoor and nature related, practical conservation work, cultural heritage and social activities...

Get involved in the international network;
Participate in networking and training events: workshops and trainings for Rangers, camps and events for JR.



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Explore... Learn... Take Care!

Practical Experience

Make sure you have fun doing what you do

Build a team of friends

Emotions play an important role!



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From where to start?

The Park to endorse and lead the process

Make a plan: 3 years

Start with a small group

Regular activities (5 days a year)

Create partnership with schools, scouts, environmental associations...

JR program part of the ordinary park work

Regular frequency activities

Camp at the end

Recognition and visibility: Uniforms or gadgets +

Certificate/award

Involve parents and local communities

Attend EUROPARC activities: networking, training, events for rangers and JR

Plan follow up activities



INVESTING IN YOUNG PEOPLE

Explore... Learn... Take Care!

EUROPARC International JR Camp

Every year in a different park

About 40 participants: JR and Rangers

Annual theme: biodiversity, health, food and nature, communication,...

Activities together: discover park, practical conservation work, fun, culture, know each other, languages...

Ranger meetings, seminars, workshops...

High environmental standards





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