

**THE JUNIOR RANGER  
AND VOLUNTEER  
RANGER PROGRAMME  
OF THE BAVARIAN  
FOREST NATIONAL  
PARK**

## National parks in Germany

Data as of 02/2019



National parks

Source: Federal Agency for Nature Conservation (BfN), 2019  
using data provided by the Bundesländer  
Basic Spatial Data: © GeoBasis-DE / BKG 2018

# Where are we?



Bavarian Forest National Park



**2002**

**about 80 Protected Areas  
across 19 different EU  
countries, working with  
~5000 youths**

[http://www.europarc.org/nature/  
young-people/junior-ranger-  
programme/](http://www.europarc.org/nature/young-people/junior-ranger-programme/)



**2008**

**about 50 Protected Areas  
(Nature / National Parks  
and Biosphere Reserves)**

[www.junior-ranger.de](http://www.junior-ranger.de)



**1998**

**registered Association since  
2004, until now 2758 kids  
participated in the  
programme**

[www.junior-ranger.com](http://www.junior-ranger.com)

[https://www.facebook.com/Junior  
RangerNationalparkBayerischerWald/](https://www.facebook.com/JuniorRangerNationalparkBayerischerWald/)

# JUNIOR RANGER

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Bavarian Forest National Park

# Structure

Volunteer  
Ranger (from 16  
years)

Junior Ranger (14-15  
years)

Junior Ranger (11-13 years)

Junior Ranger basic programme (4 days  
during the German Pentecost and Summer  
holidays)

# Junior Ranger

- Children, adolescents and young adults from the surrounding area of the NP
- Aims:
  - Dissemination of the NP philosophy as well as promoting acceptance and integration of the NP in the region
  - Environmental education and experiencing nature
  - Cooperation with and support of the NP watch during management actions and other events
  - Education and training of adolescents to take over leading positions in the registered association ‚Junior Ranger e.V.‘ Bavarian Forest National Park
  - Working together with Junior Ranger Organisations from other protected areas on national and international level

# How do we start?

## Four Day Basic Programme

- First contact between kids and rangers
- Experience the NP and nature in a playful way
- Learn about main topics such as
  - large-scale protected areas
  - Forest ecosystems & characteristics
  - Species protection (lynx, capercaillie, fungi)
  - The NP area
  - Rangers
  - Process conservation
  - Landscape and cultural history
  - NP facilities



# Basic Programme



## Participants

1998	12Kids	7. Class
1999	67Kids	6. + 7. Class
2000	64Kids	6. Class
2001	67Kids	
2002	102Kids	
2003	290Kids	5. + 6. Class
2004	155Kids	5. Class
2005	213 Kids	5. Class
2006	127Kids	
2007	145Kids	
2008	180 Kids	
2009	172Kids	
2010	160Kids	
2011	165Kids	
2012	168 Kids	
2013	145Kids	
2014	154 Kids	
2015	140 Kids	
2016	128 Kids	
2017	131 Kids	
2018	101 Kids	
2019	88 Kids	
	<b>2976Kids</b>	



# Basic Programme

- during the Pentecost or Summer Holidays together with a ranger and a Volunteer Ranger



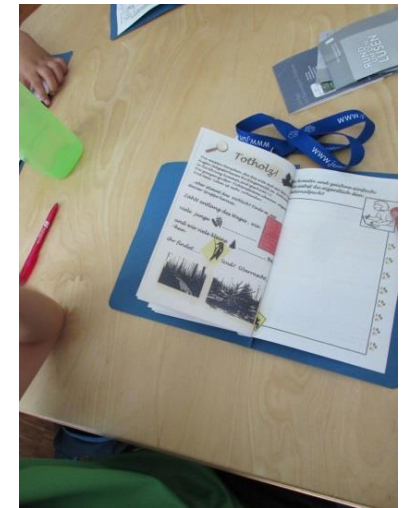
# Basic Programme



Learn about  
nature and  
ecological  
coherences



# Basic Programme



# ZERTIFIKAT

Junior  Ranger  
Nationalpark Bayerischer Wald

hat in der Zeit von \_\_\_\_\_ bis \_\_\_\_\_  
am Projekt Junior Ranger mit Erfolg teilgenommen.



Dr. Franz Leibl  
Leiter der Nationalparkverwaltung

Nati  
Baye

Junior  Ranger  
Nationalpark Bayerischer Wald

## >>> Aufnahmeantrag Junior Ranger e.V.

Ich beantrage für mich bzw. mein minderjähriges Kind die Mitgliedschaft im Verein Junior Ranger e.V. Die durch die Mitgliederversammlung festgelegten und gültigen Beitragssätze erkenne ich an und erteile die Genehmigung zur Abbuchung des jeweils gültigen Mitgliedsbeitrages vom aufgeführten Bankkonto (kein Sparkonto)

### Persönliche Daten:

Name _____	Vorname _____
Geburtsdatum _____	Eintrittsdatum _____
Strasse/Hausnummer _____	PLZ / Wohnort _____
Telefon _____	Sex und/oder Email _____

### Bankverbindung für jährliche Beitragsabbuchung (Abbuchung jeweils im 1. Quartal)

Kontoblank _____	Bank _____
Kontonummer _____	Bankfiliale _____



# What happens after the Basic Programme?

- Kids interested in further activities can join the 'Junior Ranger e.V.', a registered association
- About once a month an activity with a ranger
  - Specific topics (water, lynx, capercaillie, waste etc.)
  - Inside or outside (hiking, building nesting boxes, creating a film etc.)
- Roughly divided into age groups



# Junior Ranger 11-13 years

- Mentored by a ranger, about 1 meeting/month
- Basics of nature protection, protected areas and specific topics of the area



# Junior Ranger 14-15 years

- Preparation for Volunteer Ranger Work
- Addressing important topics of the protected area



# Junior Ranger Activities





# Junior Ranger Activities



# Junior Rangers work for nature and the protected area



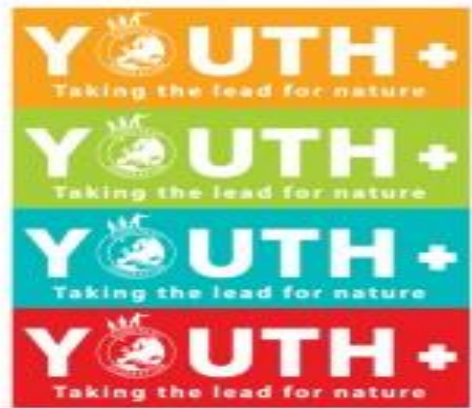
# **VOLUNTEER RANGER**

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# Volunteer Rangers in Europe

Since 2013:

Setup of a Europarc Youth+ Programme



Since 2013:

Volunteer Ranger Bavarian Forest National Park



# Volunteer Ranger Programme

Volunteer Ranger from 16 years

- The aim is to offer exciting activities throughout the programme to keep the kids engaged and build a team of about 40 to 50 active Volunteer Rangers
- Integration of young adults as volunteers into the work of the national park watch



# Volunteer Ranger

- Supporting rangers with
  - Junior Ranger Programme
  - Guided tours for families and kids on specific topics
  - Big events
  - Presentation of the JR work at information stands
  - Information stands in general
  - Reserve patrols
  - Research projects
  - Media projects
- Intensive training on specific topics
  - Capercaillie
  - World Ranger Day
  - Nesting holes
  - Large carnivores



# Volunteer Ranger

- About 15-20 active Volunteer Rangers at the moment
- Experience the whole JR programme
- Highly trained on nature and species conservation specific topics



# Volunteer Ranger – Ambassadors for the protected Area and Nature





# On a local...



... national ...



# ...and international level



# Support at Camps & Ranger Work





Volunteer Rangers present their work at the closing ceremony of the basic programme



# Volunteer Ranger Work



# Volunteer Ranger Work



# Cooperation and exchange with other Junior Ranger Groups – Example 1

- Junior Rangers in Frederikshavn Municipality
- Established a JR group based on our JR model
- Visit of a JR delegation from the Bavarian Forest in Frederikshavn, Denmark
- Visited our NP this year in February



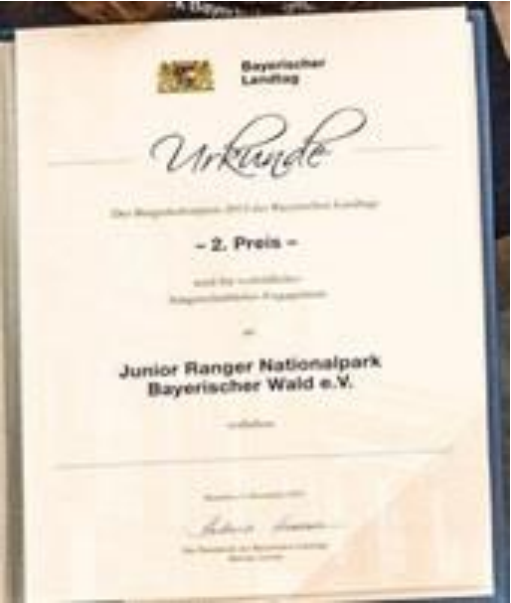


# Cooperation and exchange with other Junior Ranger Groups – Example 2

- Kids-to-the-Bush / Junior Ranger Botswana project
- A project realized by the Knyphausen Stiftung
- Some JR from Botswana might visit us next year



# Awards



# Why the programme is so important

- Increased acceptance of the NP among the local population
- Kids learn about their environment and their protected area
- Kids' families get closer to the idea of nature protection
- NP gets ambassadors on local, national and international level
- We form the next decision makers
- NP gets highly trained and motivated volunteers in different fields:  
monitoring, visitor management, Junior Ranger Programme and so on....
- We might influence their career path
- We might keep young people in the rural regions

***"Youth are not just our future leaders; they can provide a great support for nature conservation in protected areas today. We only have to give them a chance" – Ignace Schops***

# Why Rangers?

- Rangers can coordinate all these activities, because they are the face of the protected area
- Good contacts to the natives
- In some protected areas, only rangers work on holidays, weekends etc.
- They have the necessary knowledge
- Rangers are the face of a Junior Ranger programme

# Questions?



# Thank You For Your Attention

