



# Park Rangers of the 21st Century

MINDFACTORY, 3. MAY 2022



# What will we do

- ▶ Discussion on our self-image
- ▶ Discussion on what unites us
- ▶ A brief history of the ranger profession
- ▶ Glimpse into heritage interpretation
- ▶ A coffee break ;-)
- ▶ A short exercise outside
- ▶ Seven thinking steps to a better image
- ▶ And what if we only do law enforcement?





Nepal



North Sea



Israel

# About the Swiss Rangers (and me)



Grand Canyon



Rocky Mountains



Germany



Switzerland



Azores



UK

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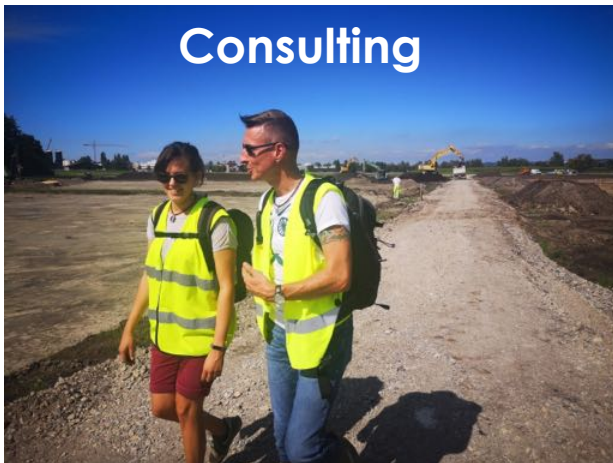


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# Griffin Ranger GmbH

Ihre Fachleute für Rangerdienste, Umweltbildung, Natur und Wildtiere

# Our departments





# Park Ranger



What my friends think I do



What tourists think I do



What my grandparents think I do



What the seasons think I do



What I think I do



What I really do

## Who Is A Ranger?

The IRF defines a Ranger as the person involved in the **practical protection and preservation** of all aspects of wild areas, historical and cultural sites. Rangers **provide recreational opportunities and interpretation** of sites while providing links between local communities, protected areas and area administration.



# Rangers: What unites us



**Repression**  
Survey  
Law  
Enforcement

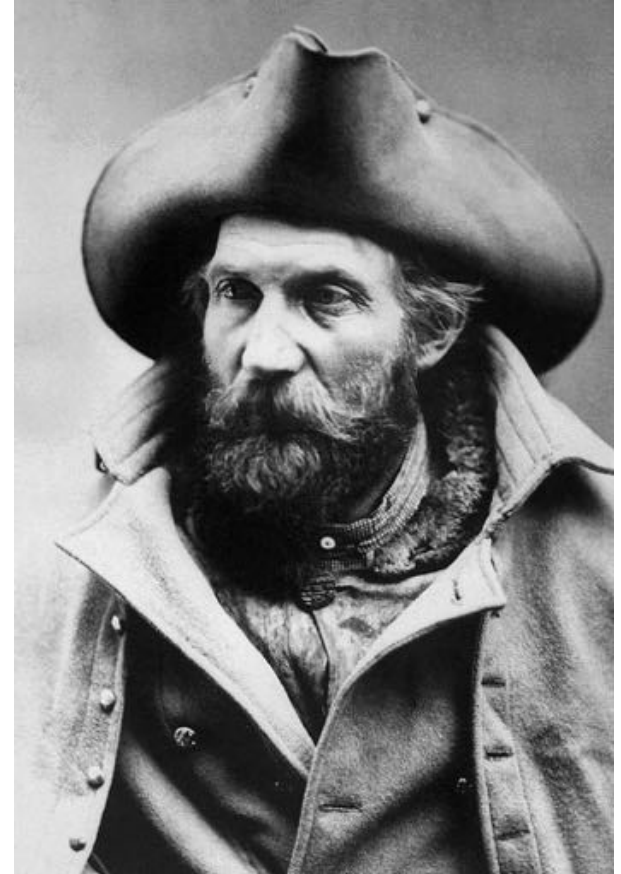
**Prevention**  
Education  
Interpretation  
PR



- **Who are you?**
- **Where are you?**
- **Your challenge as ranger?**

# The history of the rangers

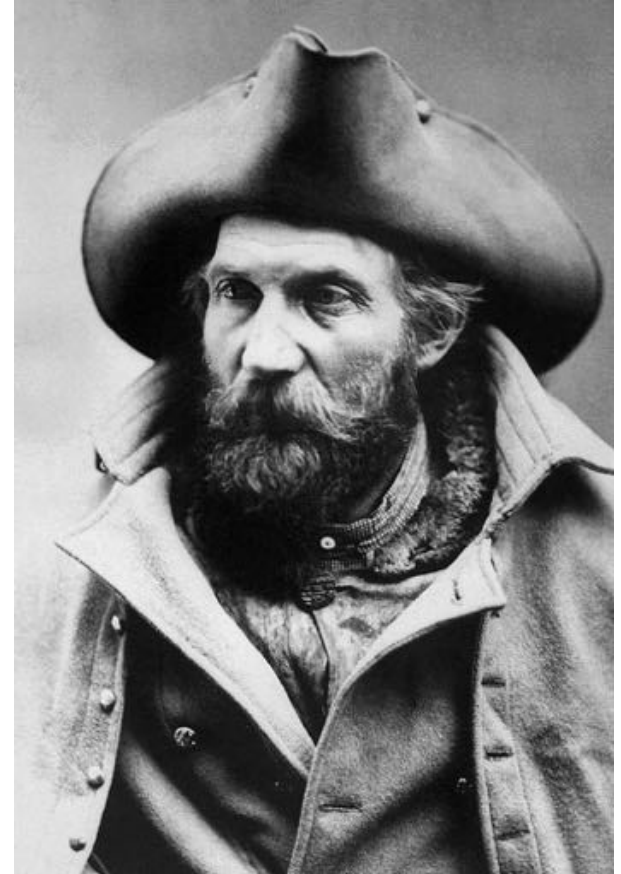
- ▶ Harry Yount (1837-1924)
- ▶ Hired as the world's first ranger in Yellowstone National Park in 1880
- ▶ Yellowstone founded in 1872, making it the oldest NP in the world!
- ▶ Resigned after only 14 months because one ranger alone was not enough.
- ▶ 1886 US Army took over the Ranger Service



# His attitude

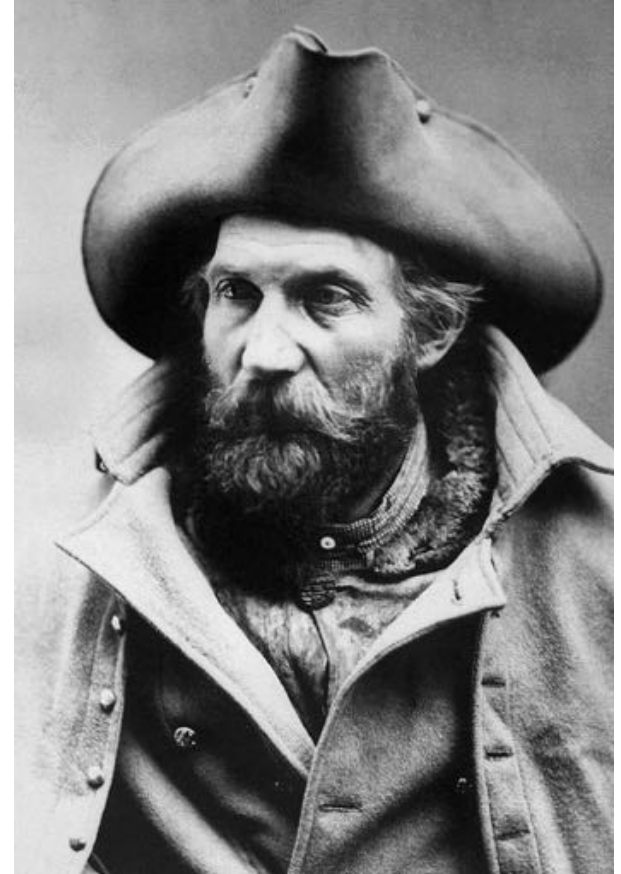
«There are indications that Yount had a difference of opinion with park superintendent Norris, who wanted him to spend more of his time building roads for the convenience of tourists, while Yount preferred to concentrate on protecting the wildlife.»

*From Wikipedia*



# A quote

«I do not think that any one man, and designated as a gamekeeper, can prove effective purposes, but a small and reliable police force of men, employed when needed, during good behavior, is what is really the most practicable way of seeing that the game is protected from slaughter, the forests from careless use of fire, and the enforcement of all the other laws, rules, and regulations for the protection and improvement of the park.



# 1872: Yellowstone National Park



# 1914: Swiss National Park



# 1909: Sarek National Park (SE)





# Structures and associations

1966: Countryside Management Association (UK)

1970: Game Ranger Association of Afrika (GRAA)

1992: International Ranger Federation (IRF)

1995: Bundesverband Naturwacht e.V. (Germany)

2008: Swiss Rangers

2012: Ranger Federation of Asia

2017: European Ranger Federation (ERF)

# Rangers: What unites us



**Repression**  
Survey  
Law  
Enforcement

**Prevention**  
Education  
Interpretation  
PR





Atlantischer Ozean

Norwegen



Finnland

Russland

Moskau

Nordsee

Ostsee



Vereinigtes  
Königreich

London

Deutschland

Berlin

Polen

Warschau

Ukraine

Kiew

Frankreich

Paris

Schweiz

Zürich

Ungarn

Budapest

Rumänien

Bukarest

Italien

Rom

Bulgarien

Sofia

Portugal

Lissabon

Spanien

Madrid

Türkei

Ankara

Mittelmeer

Mittelmeer

Schwarzes Meer

- 1) Slowenien
- 2) Bosnien und Herzegowina
- 3) Liechtenstein
- 4) Mazedonien
- 5) Montenegro
- 6) Kosovo

Island  
Reykjavik

Norwegen

Prevention  
Education  
Interpretation  
PR

Schweden  
Stockholm

Finnland  
Helsinki

Russland

Moskau

Prevention  
Education  
Interpretation  
PR

Vereinigtes  
Königreich  
London

Dänemark  
Kopenhagen

Polen  
Warschau

Repression  
Survey  
Law  
Enforcement

Ukraine  
Kiew

Frankreich  
Paris

Österreich  
Wien

Ungarn  
Budapest

Rumänien  
Bukarest

Spanien  
Madrid

Serbien  
Belgrad

Bulgarien  
Sofia

Türkei  
Ankara

Repression  
Survey  
Law  
Enforcement

Portugal  
Lissabon

Griechenland  
Athen

Zypern

Atlantischer Ozean

Nordsee

Ostsee

Schwarzen Meer

Mittelmeer

# 1916: US National Park Service





# Freeman Tilden (1883-1980)

“You have only to attend some of the worse performances in interpretation to wish heartily that there were some teach-able principles, and perhaps some schools for interpreters.”



Tilden, F. (1957) *Interpreting Our Heritage*. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 4

# Tilden's definition of interpretation

Heritage interpretation is “an educational activity which aims to reveal meanings and relationships through the use of original objects, by first hand experience, and by illustrative media, rather than simply to communicate factual information.”



*Tilden, F. (1957) Interpreting Our Heritage.  
Chapel Hill: The University of North Carolina Press, 8*



# Tilden's two concepts of interpretation

“Interpretation is the revelation of a larger truth that lies behind any statement of fact.”

“Interpretation should capitalize mere curiosity for the enrichment of the human mind and spirit.”



*Tilden, F. (1957) Interpreting Our Heritage.  
Chapel Hill: The University of North Carolina Press, 8*

# Tilden's six principles of interpretation

1  
“Any interpretation that does not somehow **relate** what is being displayed or described to something within the personality or experience of the visitor will be sterile.”



*Tilden, F. (1957) Interpreting Our Heritage.  
Chapel Hill: The University of North Carolina  
Press, 9*

# Tilden's six principles of interpretation

“Information, as such,  
is not interpretation.  
Interpretation is **revelation**  
based upon information. [...]”

*Tilden, F. (1957) Interpreting Our Heritage.  
Chapel Hill: The University of North Carolina  
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# Tilden's six principles of interpretation

“Interpretation is an art,  
which combines many arts,  
whether the materials  
presented are scientific,  
historical or architectural.  
Any art is in some degree  
teachable.”



*Tilden, F. (1957) Interpreting Our Heritage.  
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Press, 9*

# Tilden's six principles of interpretation

“The chief aim of interpretation is not instruction but provocation”

4

*Tilden, F. (1957) Interpreting our Heritage. Chapel Hill: The University of North Carolina Press, 9*



# Tilden's six principles of interpretation

“Interpretation should aim to present a whole rather than a part and must address itself to the whole man rather than any phase.”



*Tilden, F. (1957) Interpreting Our Heritage. Chapel Hill: The University of North Carolina Press, 9*

# Tilden's six principles of interpretation

“Interpretation addressed to children [...] will require a separate program.”

*Tilden, F. (1957) Interpreting Our Heritage. Chapel Hill: The University of North Carolina Press, 9*





- Australia: 3
- Canada: 3
- Columbia: 1
- Costa Rica: 1
- Egypt: 1
- Israel: 3
- Mexico: 1
- New Zealand: 1
- Philippines: 1
- Puerto Rico: 1
- Turkey: 3
- USA: 12
- Zimbabwe: 1



interpret europe



# Interpret Europe

## European Association for Heritage Interpretation

- Founded as an association in 2010
- More than 550 members in 44 countries

We believe that to learn from our heritage is essential for a shared future in Europe.



interpret europe

# The interpretive triangle

Phenomenon



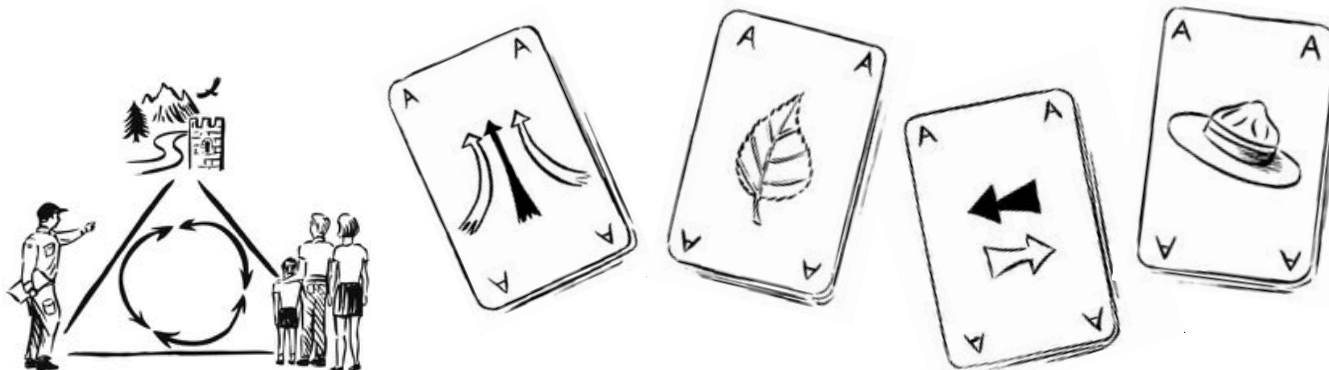
Interpreter

Participants



# The interpretive triangle

- We offer paths to deeper **meaning**
- We turn phenomena into **experiences**
- We provoke resonance and **participation**
- We foster **stewardship** for all heritage



# The interpretive triangle

Phenomenon

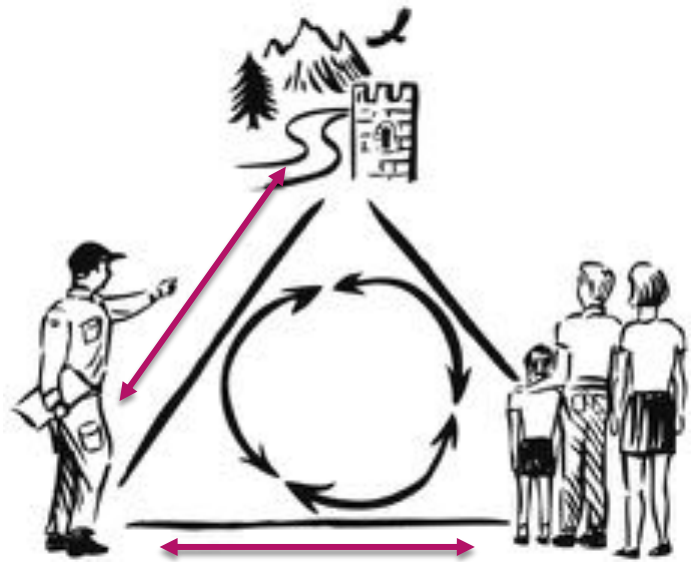


Interpreter

Participants

# The interpretive triangle

Phenomenon



Interpreter

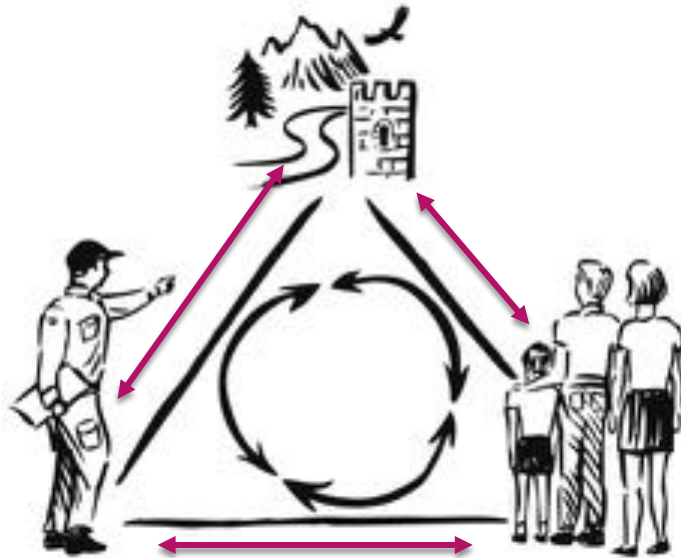
Participants

# Asking open-ended questions

- ▶ focus question (answer requires direct contact with the phenomenon); e.g. **What does this pine needle smell like??**
- ▶ transfer question (which asks for connections into the participants' world); e.g. **Where have you seen this moss before?**
- ▶ process question (seeking to find out how something could happen); e.g. **What will this forest look like in 100 years?**
- ▶ evaluation question (which needs to elicit an opinion); e.g. **Should we continue to manage these forests?**

# The interpretive triangle

Phenomenon



Interpreter

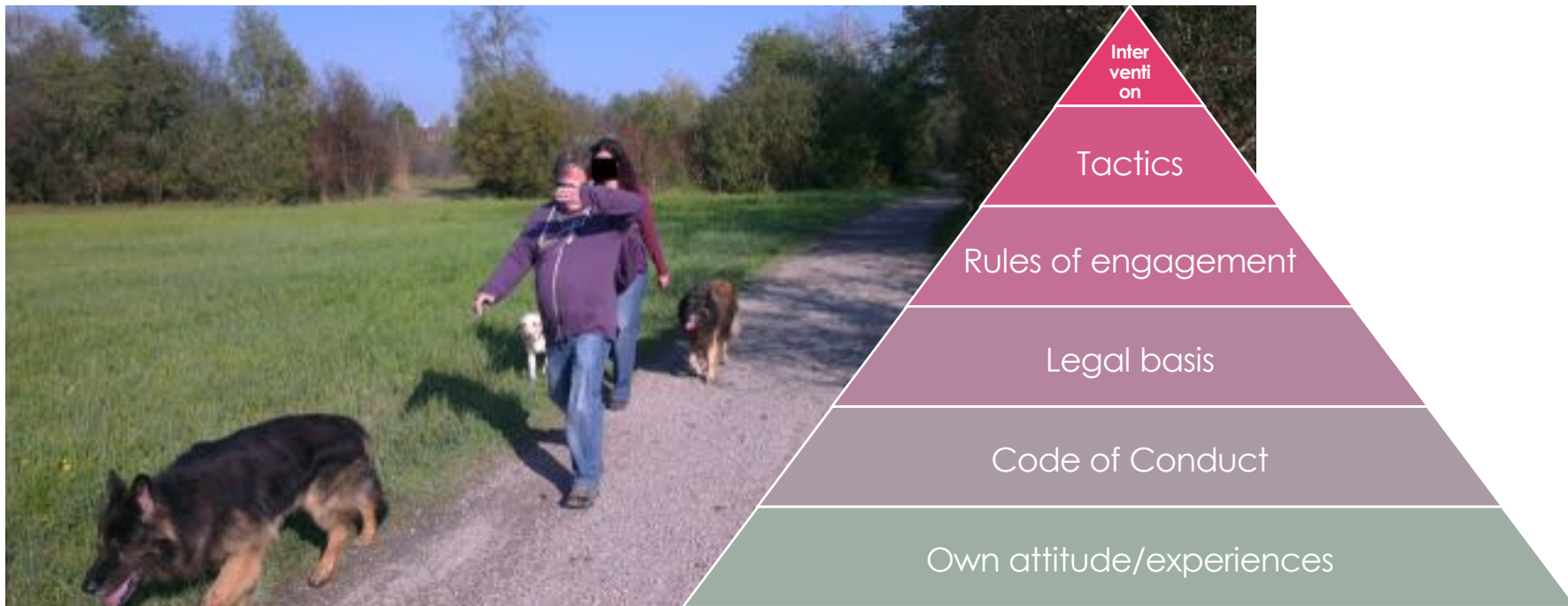
Participants

# Stepping Stones





# What to do?





# The Seven Thinking Steps for Rangers



# 1. Offer yourself!



# 1. Offer yourself!

- Wear uniform and name badge
- Don't go too fast
- Give a friendly impression

## 2. Approach people!



## 2. Approach people!

- Take the first step
- Explain something that excites you
- Small talk is valuable too

### 3. Create a relationship!



# 3. Create a relationship!

- Take an interest in your vis-à-vis
- Search for common ground
- Use the interpretation triangle



# 4. Raise your profile!

ZürcherUnterländer

NEERACH

## Neue Rangerinnen auf Patrouille im Neeracherried

Seit Anfang Juni sind im Neeracherried Rahel Isenschmid und Alice Wassmer als Rangerinnen unterwegs. Dabei beaufsichtigen sie, dass niemand die geltenden Regeln verletzt.



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Cyprian Schnoz, 16.06.2017

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Den Feldstecher haben die beiden neuen Rangerinnen Rahel Isenschmid (links) und Alice Wassmer nicht nur für Vogelbeobachtungen dabei, sondern auch, um Verstösse gegen die Regeln zu entdecken. Bild: Leo Wyden

# 4. Raise your profile!

## ZürcherUnterländer

NEERACH

### • Neue Rangerinnen der Patrouille im Neeracherried

Seit Anfang Juni sind die Rangerinnen Fabiela Isenschmid und Alice Weissmeier im Neeracherried unterwegs. Dabei beaufsichtigen sie, dass niemand die geltenden Regeln verletzt.

Cyprian Schnoz, 16.06.2017



Die Greifensee-Stiftung

WRANGER GMBH: Vogelbeobachtungen dabei, sondern auch, um Verstöße gegen die Regeln zu entdecken. Bild: Leo Wyden

## 5. Be an expert!



## 5. Be an expert!!

- Know better something of everything than everything of something
- If you don't know something, you know where to look.
- If you don't know anything, then deflect ;-)

## 6. Give the conversations value!



## 6. Give the conversations value!

- Talking is the most important task of the ranger
- Expect a commitment to this task from your boss
- Count the talks

# 7. Go the extra mile!



## 7. Go the extra mile!

- Run ranger talks and offer guided tours
- Be creative and have a sense of humour
- **Be proud to be a ranger!**



# More of that?

- ▶ Become a member of your national association
- ▶ Participation in trainings and congresses
- ▶ 10 to 14 October, ERC Albania
- ▶ 5. bis 9. Juni 2023, WRC on the Azores
- ▶ [www.griffin.swiss](http://www.griffin.swiss)
- ▶ Instagram: Theluckyranger
- ▶ LinkedIn: Urs Wegmann





[www.griffin.swiss](http://www.griffin.swiss)