

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

EUROPARC Junior Rangers - A force For Nature!

Who: EUROPARC Federation

What: 12th EUROPARC International Junior Ranger Camp:
“Parks in Europe: discover how they work”

When: 13th to 20th July, 2013

Where: Wildniscamp of the Bavarian Forest National Park in
Germany



Regensburg, July 23 - EUROPARC's youngest forces discover how National Parks work. Another one in the series of great events celebrating EUROPARC's 40th birthday...

Europe's nature is in danger! Europe needs National Parks to take care of places with special natural value. One of the greatest challenges facing National Parks today, is to find ways of demonstrating that the conservation of nature and the sustainable use of natural resources have a fundamental relevance to people's daily lives. The human cost of alienation from nature greatly affects young people today, but also tomorrow. We need society to understand the importance of nature and biodiversity. We need young people to connect to nature.

To accomplish this EUROPARC strives to encourage the environmental education among youth, through the exchange of experiences between Junior Rangers and leaders of Junior Ranger programmes. It all started 12 years ago, when the first Junior Rangers from across Europe met in the Bavarian Forest National Park, Germany. This year they returned where it all began, to a 7-day event in the very unique surrounding of the Wilderness Camp in the Bavarian Forest National Park. 50 Junior Rangers from 14 European Protected Areas and 11 countries participated in the EUROPARC International Junior Ranger Camp.

To manage a National Park in all its aspects is not easy; there are many areas that need to be taken into account and this year Junior Rangers got the opportunity to discover how complex protected areas management can be. They learnt from the daily duties of park managers to skills for good communication and visitor management in Protected Areas. All of these serious topics were wrapped in a number of practical, fun and certainly exciting activities. They gained plenty of insight into what the magical Wilderness Camp had to offer, whilst getting to know each other's cultures and discovering the daily work of the National Park.

The camp was also a great opportunity for the accompanying Rangers to meet and discuss the future initiatives and improve the Junior Ranger network in Protected Areas across Europe. The Junior Ranger programme and yearly camps provide Junior Rangers with opportunities to participate in the work of Protected Areas, which, in return, are then able to fulfil their educational role whilst teaching participants about their functions, values and benefits.

We would like to thank our partners and sponsors for the generous support: this year's host the Bavarian Forest National Park and their team, Sparkasse Freyung-Grafenau and dm - DrugMarkt from Cham.

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413 WORDS

Notes for editors:

About the EUROPARC Federation:

EUROPARC is the umbrella organisation for Junior Ranger programmes throughout Europe. The aim of the network is to facilitate the increase of new partners throughout Europe by providing interested parks with information on the most important aspects of a Junior Ranger programme. EUROPARC Federation is an independent, non-governmental organisation whose membership brings together organisations responsible for the management of most of Europe's protected areas. Currently it represents over 400 members in 36 countries. These include protected areas, governmental departments, NGO's and businesses who themselves manage the green jewels of Europe's land, sea, mountains, forests, rivers and cultural heritage.

Interview opportunities:

- Federico Minozzi, Policy Officer
- Petra Schultheiss, Project Development Officer
- Carol Ritchie, Director
- Michael Großmann, Leiter der Nationalparkwacht
(michael.grossmann@npv-bw.bayern.de)

For more information visit our websites:

www.euoparc.org
www.euoparc2013.eu
www.european-charter.org

Contact

Dea Mijakovac
Communications and Marketing Officer
E: d.mijakovac@euoparc.org
S: dea.mijakovac.euoparc
T: +49 (0)941 599 35 983

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High quality photos available on request.

