

CAIRNGORMS NP JUNIOR RANGER PROJECT





What are we trying to do?



- Create and develop young ambassadors/advocates for the Cairngorms who will speak on it's behalf and be the voice of young people.
- Develop a pathway of engagement from cradle to grave.
- Develop a positive cycle of engagement through 'Head Heart Hand' ethos.

JUNIOR RANGERS



Develop a programme of activity to encourage people to become ambassadors for the Park, promoting messages about care, active enjoyment and wise use.



Cairngorms National Park Plan

- Priority for Action – Raising Awareness and Understanding of the Park.
 - Outcomes for 2012 – There will be more opportunities for people to become practically involved in caring for the Park and its special qualities.
 - Action Programme 2007-12
 - Develop a programme of practical volunteering opportunities that link people to the special qualities of the Park.
 - Develop a programme of activity to encourage people to become ambassadors for the Park, promoting messages about care, active enjoyment and wise use.

Ambassadors





Europarc Junior Ranger Project Aims

"We don't only acquire practical skills, we also learn for life."

- Create a network of youngsters who participate in nature protection by acting as advocates for their protected area.
- Improve youngsters' knowledge and understanding of the ranger profession.
- Raise awareness about the natural, cultural, social and economic values of protected areas.
- Enhancing recognition of protected areas and their administrations' achievements.
- Promote friendship and a group ethic among youngsters by engaging them in the achievement of the common goals of European protected areas.
- Offering activities for junior rangers that are hands on and fun.

Advocates





Cairngorms NP Junior Ranger Project – what does it look like?

- Groups of Ranger Services collaborate to deliver programme in their area.
- Junior Rangers recruited from local secondary schools.
- Age range 11 – 18. Group size up to 14.
- Initial 4-5 day input during summer term.
- Monthly meeting thereafter. Delivery shared by Ranger Services – typically 3 -4 days per year for each Ranger Service.
- Programme will follow EUROPARC criteria and CNP Plan.
- Project overseen by CNPA and EUROPARC.
- Potential involvement in summer camps and exchanges.



Initial 5 day programme

- 5 days long, non residential.
- Achieve John Muir Discovery Award.
- Led by Rangers, assisted by CNPA staff if appropriate.
- Emphasis on fun, adventure, confidence building, self esteem and communication.
- Age range 11 – 18 yrs.
- Held during last half of summer term.
- Schools involved – Aboyne Academy, Alford Academy, Kingussie HS, Grantown GS and Webster's HS.



Follow on programme

- Open to graduates of the 5 day initial programme up to age 18.
- Operate one day a month.
- Achieve John Muir Explorer Award.
- Develop skills, knowledge and understanding introduced during the initial programme.
- Provide the opportunity to use new skills in meaningful and real situations.
- Use climate change as a thematic strand.
- Allow participation in International Camps and exchanges.

Pathways



John Muir Award



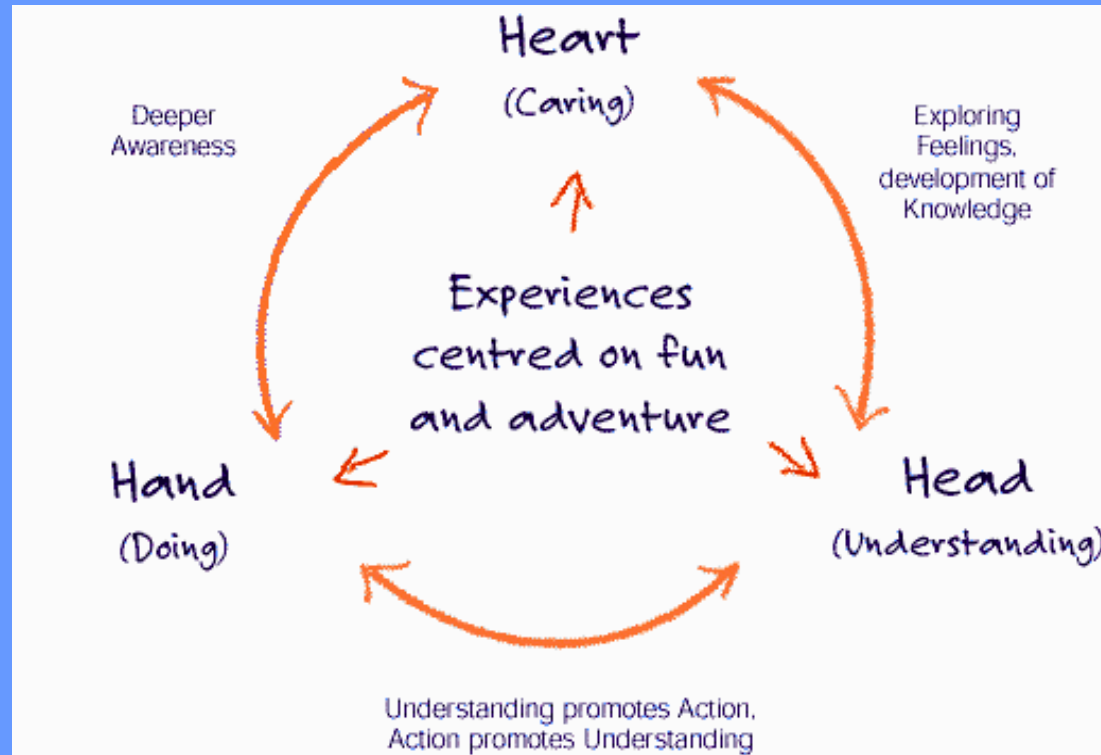
- An environmental award scheme focused on wild places.
- It encourages awareness and responsibility for the natural environment, in a spirit of fun, adventure and exploration.
- **Connect, enjoy and care for the planet's Wild places.**
- www.johnmuiraward.org



Junior Ranger Project



Head Heart Hand





‘...to influence lifestyle choices we must connect with the heart, senses and emotions rather than the head and its brain cells.’

Painting the Town Green

Stephen Hounsham

www.green-engage.co.uk

One of the greatest challenges facing protected areas today is to find ways of demonstrating that the conservation of nature and culture and the sustainable use of natural resources have a fundamental relevance to people's daily lives.

The **Junior Ranger Programme** is an ideal tool to foster strong and lasting bonds between local communities and their protected areas.



Future?



- Project for 18 years plus.
- Apprenticeships, internships.
- Environmental volunteering opportunities for adults and community groups.



“I have learnt that I can do things and that I don’t just have to follow others”

Young person from Scotland.

“that the Cairngorms are a very important, unique place”. Young person from Scotland.

“I realise and understand deeply the need for young people to be involved with nature and the environment.” Young person from Scotland.



Any questions?