

JUNIOR RANGER



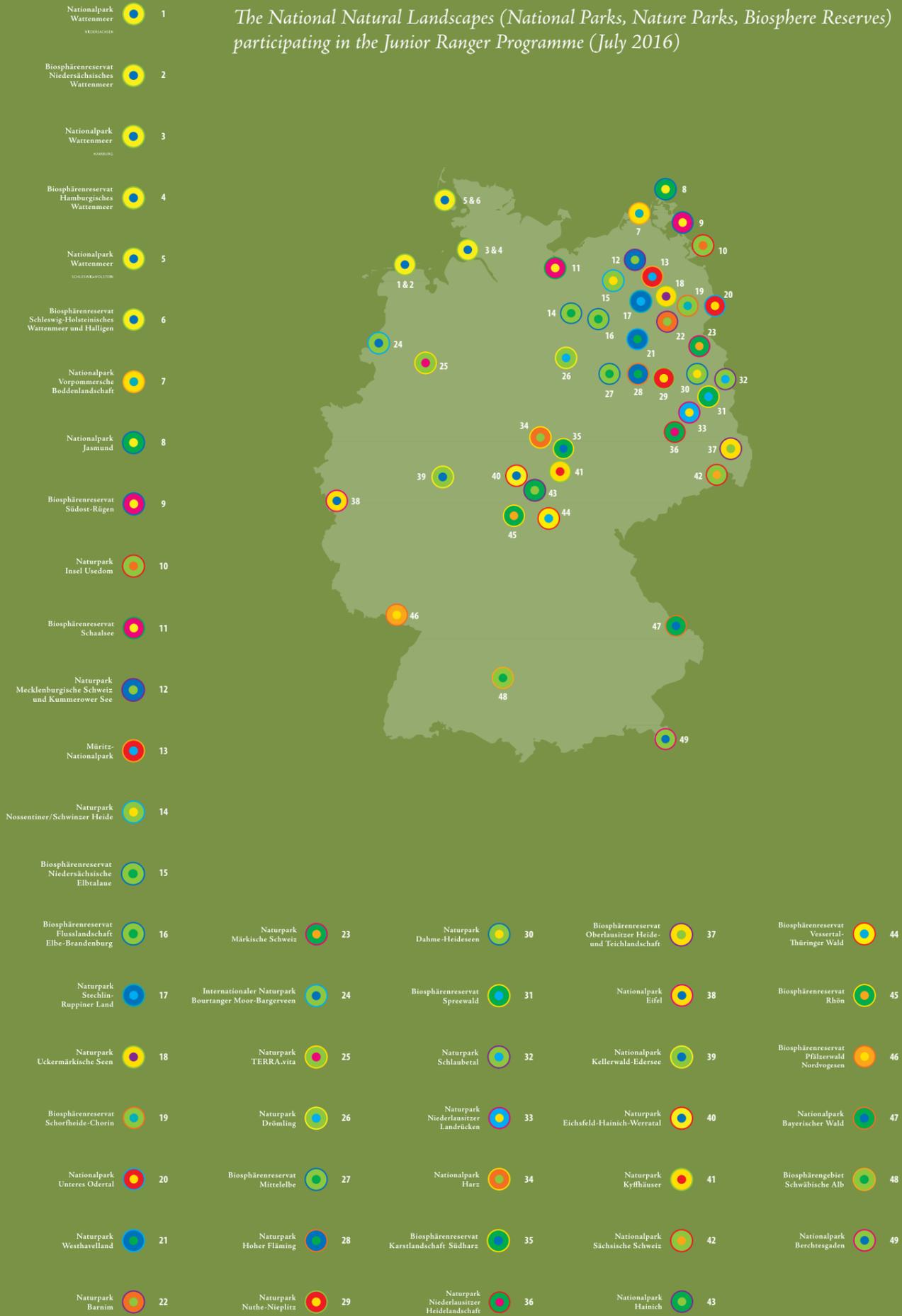
JUNIOR RANGER

Guidelines for the National Junior Ranger Programme

Nationale
Naturlandschaften



The National Natural Landscapes (National Parks, Nature Parks, Biosphere Reserves) participating in the Junior Ranger Programme (July 2016)



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The knowledge and experience gleaned from nearly 50 National Natural Landscapes is brought together in a lively network and passed on to future generations through the Junior Ranger Programme.

Who we are and what we want to achieve

EUROPARC Germany and WWF Germany work in partnership with the National Natural Landscapes. They have the goal of protecting biological diversity and encouraging people to play an active role in the achievement of this. The inclusion of children and young people in educational activities is an important part of attaining this goal.

We have been developing the National Junior Ranger Programme together since 2008. We want to get children and young people excited about nature, natural dynamic processes and the National Natural Landscapes and help facilitate their active participation and engagement.

Our vision

As an educational program, the Junior Ranger Programme becomes an essential part of being a child in Germany.

Children and young people learn to be enthusiastic about biological diversity. They actively engage in nature conservation and environmental protection and work together in a national Junior Ranger network.

All the National Natural Landscapes participating in the programme become ideal places for education and experiencing nature, and act as models for natural and sustainable development.



The programme

The Junior Ranger Programme is designed to fulfill our vision. It is designed so that all children and young people have the opportunity to participate.

We developed four pillars within the programme in order to offer children different ways to access Junior Rangers and to gain qualifications:

- “Junior Ranger Region” for children who live within the catchment of a National Natural Landscape
- “Junior Ranger Explorers” – for tourism and leisure activities
- “Junior Ranger Web” for all users of new media
- “Junior Ranger School” for use in schools

All four pillars allow children to have an emotional access to consistent values, knowledge, skills and competencies.

They are based on principles of education that allow for sustainable development. This occurs through the use of specific methods and offers.

“Junior Ranger” is an educational programme that is fun for children and teaches them decision-making skills.



Junior Rangers at a national meeting in the Hainich National Park and Eichsfeld-Hainich-Werra Valley Nature Park

The programme pillars

Junior Ranger Region pillar

Children and young people meet regularly over a longer period of time, predominantly outside in natural settings. They work on projects, complete tasks and experience adventure while playing games and having fun. At the same time they learn about regional National Natural Landscapes and their special characteristics, and begin to understand how natural, social and economic processes interact. They can qualify as Junior Rangers.

Junior Ranger Explorer pillar

Children and their families who don't live near National Natural Landscapes can visit them and explore the area. This programme provides exciting explorer magazines with observation and research activities, tasks and quizzes, and also offers explorer camps. Children can qualify as Junior Ranger Explorers.

Junior Ranger Web pillar

Every child can access the website www.junior-ranger.de and then start an adventurous journey into the National Natural Landscapes from a base camp. The children learn via online games about the content of the Junior Ranger Programme. This prepares them for a visit to any natural place as well as to

the National Natural Landscapes. Once they have mastered the tasks the adventures present, they can become Junior Ranger Web certified.

While playing games online, players receive pages for a “research book”, which contains ideas about how to make crafts, carry out independent research at home as well as useful tips for everyday situations. These activities will teach the children decision-making skills and motivate them to lead sustainable lifestyles.

Junior Ranger School pillar

This pillar takes the contents of the Junior Ranger Programme to schools in the form of teaching units. The programme prepares the children for Junior Ranger qualification. The children then go on a class trip or visit a National Natural Landscape as part of a school project. They deepen their knowledge by applying it on site. Pupils can become Junior Ranger School qualified in this way.

What Junior Rangers are and what they learn

Junior Rangers...

- are friends and advocates of Natural National Landscapes.
- love nature and the place they call home. They gain extensive knowledge about natural processes and interactions.
- think ahead and in a global context.
- critically challenge their own and other people's patterns of consumption.
- pass on their knowledge to friends and family.
- are role models in the public and in their social circles of influence.



Junior Rangers are at home in the outdoors

Knowledge, values, skills and competencies taught as part of the programme:

- The role of rangers and other nature conservation activists in the National Natural Landscapes
- Adventure, play and fun in order to promote individual creativity and personality
- Global importance of habitats and species
- People in the National Natural Landscapes – history, culture and sustainable land use
- Categories, special features and spatial distribution of the National Natural Landscapes
- Rules of behaviour and required equipment for being in nature
- Reflecting on one's own lifestyle and understanding other people's perspectives (change of perspective and empathy)
- Landscapes, habitats and their species in the National Natural Landscapes, and their importance for biological diversity
- The global dimension of nature conservation and important actors
- Independent discovery and the assessment of interdisciplinary information as a basis for forming personal opinions and making decisions about your own actions
- The relationship between one's personal life style and biological diversity (effects on the climate, ecological footprint)

How we work

The programme...

- is implemented by technically competent and pedagogically qualified personnel.
- takes into account knowledge and the skills the children have.
- allows children to experience nature and get a deep insight into the structure, responsibilities and aims of National Natural Landscapes.
- is characterised by the use of different media and many methods.
- encourages integrated thinking and practical action, for example, through involvement in short and long-term projects, the development of projects, sponsorship and the participation in camps.
- honours the acquired skills and the involvement with acknowledgements such as certificates of achievements, T-shirts and badges.



- promotes identification within the Junior Ranger Programme through clothing and equipment with the Junior Ranger logo, the organisation of annual national Junior Ranger meetings and an exchange of information via the programme's website.
- is a permanent, free educational programme for children and their families. For certain products (e.g. camps and Explorer magazines) there will be a fee.
- is not used to make profit.

Our organisational structure

- EUROPARC and the participating National Natural Landscapes jointly develop templates and frameworks for the different parts of the programme.
- The National Natural Landscapes bring in their technical and personnel resources. They implement the programme offer based on general agreed principles and the consideration of available organisational, financial and personnel resources.
- EUROPARC is responsible for the organisation of the network.
- All partners take responsibility for promotional activities and fundraising for the national programme within the limits of their possibilities.
- All project partners are equal with regards to the implementation of projects.
- All partners involved in the programme meet once a year organised by EUROPARC. This happens within the context of a national workshop to exchange knowledge and decide on the next steps to be taken.
- Where necessary, EUROPARC invites partners to thematic workshops to develop and review individual modules and offers.
- The common www.junior-ranger.de website provides the organisation with a great deal of publicity. It also presents the work of individual partners in a way that children can understand.
- The intranet provides participating partners with information and material about the individual programme offers. It also facilitates the transfer of knowledge between them. The programme's public image is based on the corporate design of the National Natural Landscapes and is communicated through the use of the Junior Ranger logo and the mascots Lotta & Lars.
- The financing of local programme offers is organised by National Natural Landscapes. Possibilities of co-financing through external funding are being investigated.

Special features of each programme pillar

Junior Ranger Region

Specific goals

The context of a region's special features are taken into account when organising and carrying out work in local areas. The goal is to introduce national standards for the values, knowledge, skills and competencies Junior Rangers have. A uniform exam model will be developed based on the aforementioned guidelines and offered to participating National Natural Landscapes for use at their own discretion. Regional Junior Rangers who take advantage of this offer and pass the exam will receive a badge and certificate of achievement as a nationally recognised Junior Ranger.

Minimum standards

- The minimum duration is 30 hours of activity. This can be done in one block of time or over a longer period with clearly connected units.
- Supervision of Junior Rangers is carried out by a regular, qualified counselor.
- Junior Rangers know where their National Natural Landscapes is on a national map and know its protection status.
- Junior Rangers know the characteristic landscape features and habitats of their region.
- Junior Rangers know how to orientate themselves in nature and can use a map and compass.
- Junior Rangers will accompany a ranger or manager of a protection area on their work routine at least once.
- Junior Rangers have the opportunity to build a long-term relationship with their National Natural Landscapes and to engage with their region, e.g. as a volunteer.

Quality criteria

- The educational programme uses many different methods and mainly takes place outdoors. It promotes the Junior Rangers in their individual strengths, their senses and motoric abilities and social competencies (e.g. project work, adventure, research, discovery, experience, sponsorship, play)
- Junior Rangers actively participate in the design of the programme and will be taken seriously with regard to their personalities.

- The promotion of social competencies and a feeling of belonging to the Junior Ranger group, e.g. through team work and the organisation of camps.
- The inclusion of Junior Rangers' families and social environment.
- The development of a vital national Junior Ranger network (national meetings, Junior Ranger travel, internet page, hospitality to other groups).
- Additional training opportunities for Junior Ranger leaders and counsellors.

Junior Ranger leaders/counsellors

- Are rangers or persons who are sympathetic to the aims of National Natural Landscapes and have an insight into the roles and responsibilities of rangers.
- Staff of the National Natural Landscapes or people who are professionally supported by National Natural Landscapes staff.
- Have a JULEICIA and/or educational training and a health pass.
- Have knowledge about liability, insurance and group leadership.
- Have knowledge about natural history and about National Natural Landscapes and their categories.
- Are competent in using education for sustainable development methods (Bildung für Nachhaltige Entwicklung, BNE) and can confidently meet goals and apply the contents of this concept.
- Can moderate conflicts within a group.
- Are willing to participate in an exchange of expertise with colleagues and open to visiting and observing other groups.
- Conduct ongoing-evaluations of their own educational activities.
- Have extensive knowledge of the content and goals of the National Junior Ranger Programme of EUROPARC and WWF.



Junior Ranger Explorers

Specific goals

To reach as many children as possible who are visiting a National Natural Landscape.

The programme supports

1. Qualification as a "Junior Ranger Explorer".
2. Children and their families as they explore the National Natural Landscapes and the topic of biological diversity.
3. Nature-based tourism.
4. And motivates families and groups to visit one of the National Natural Landscapes.

Minimum standards

- The qualification "Junior Ranger Explorer" shall only be obtained by visiting the respective National Natural Landscape.
- The qualification requires direct contact with nature and the actors in the respective National Natural Landscape.
- The programme must be made relevant to the world of the children, so that they can apply their acquired decision-making abilities.
- Those receiving "Junior Ranger Explorer" qualification will be given a certificate of achievement and a badge.
- This marketing of this programme is the exclusive responsibility of the National Natural Landscapes, EUROPARC or WWF.

Quality criteria for the Junior Ranger Explorer magazine

- The magazine enables Junior Ranger qualification without the need for a leader or counsellor.
- The magazine uses the National Natural Landscapes design and is in A4 portrait orientation.
- A standard general section of eight pages is an integral part

of the magazine. The regional part has about 30 pages, based on the educational didactic concept.

- The explorer magazine is free of adverts. Partners can contribute funding via sponsoring. Logos of sponsors are to be placed in the magazine according to National Natural Landscapes design guidelines.
- The retail price is between €2.50 and €5.

Extensive information about the production of the magazine and its associated requirements, as well as about the organisation of this programme pillar can be found in the guidelines concerning the Junior Ranger Explorer programme pillar (in German only).

Quality criteria for the Junior Ranger Explorer camps

- The camps are managed and run by qualified personnel.
- Camp participants have contact to the Junior Rangers of the hosting National Natural Landscape.
- The minimum duration is ten hours. This can happen during a weekend or within one week.
- The camps are run according to sustainability considerations.
- Pricing is based on full cost-recovery and is similar to the comparable offers of other voluntary organisations.



Junior Ranger Web

Specific goals

An interactive online educational programme enables all children and young people to qualify as a Junior Ranger Web. This pillar is particularly aimed at children and young people who live in more urban areas, who are not in contact with any National Natural Landscapes or who have previously shown little or no interest in nature or the environment.

Minimum standards

- The current programme has one educational game / online-adventure for each of the main geographic regions of Germany – i.e. the Coast, Northern German Plain, Low Mountain Ranges and Cuesta, and the Alps and the Alpine Foothills. Each game is based on the special features of the National Natural Landscapes within each geographic region.
- Once the online adventures have been completed, each child receives the Junior Ranger Web qualification. The badge can be printed and so becomes part of the Junior Ranger movement.
- As part of the adventures, information about the National Natural Landscapes and ideas for crafts and suggested activities can be collected in a “research book”.
- The “research book” can be printed at home and motivates children to share its content with friends and to take it to the outdoors.

Quality criteria

- The educational programme concerning the topics of National Natural Landscapes and Junior Rangers is innovative and based on the latest web technology.
- Usability tests are run with test groups of children.
- Regular evaluation and adaptation of learning content is given.
- The e-learning portal is modular and flexible so that additions to it can be easily made.
- High-quality graphic design in order to meet current standards.
- Learning adventures always communicate content about the National Natural Landscapes as well.

Junior Ranger School

Specific goals

Develop an educational Junior Ranger School module that for the first time delivers environmental education as part of mainstream formal education. This would teach the values, roles and special features of National Parks, Biosphere Reserves and Nature Parks, as well as their role in maintaining biological diversity and protecting rare or important species in Germany. This programme pillar establishes a qualification programme for pupils, teachers and rangers.

Minimum standards

- The educational programme is part of school lessons.
- Close collaboration between the school and National Natural Landscapes takes place.

Quality criteria

- Coordinate with the educational goals of the syllabus framework used in primary schools, which, generally speaking, declare the competency to make decisions and responsibility as the highest educational goals.
- An interdisciplinary solution-orientated approach and project work promoting co-operation according to principles regarding the development of lessons for primary schools.
- Development of technical competence in terms of habitats and species, as well as environmental awareness with an increasingly global perspective (this is a requirement as part of the syllabus framework).
- An innovative transfer of knowledge about the National Natural Landscapes to pupils’ daily environments and the development of projects within the school environment.
- Sustainable school trip to one of the National Natural Landscapes.

National Junior Ranger meetings

Specific goals

The annual meeting of the Junior Rangers serves to nurture the national Junior Ranger network. Junior Rangers, group leaders and other participants get to know each other and can exchange their experiences. They also get more insight into the respective National Natural Landscapes and learn about other protection areas and the diversity of the National Natural Landscapes.

Minimum standards

- The hosting National Natural Landscapes present themselves.
- Regional and global core messages are communicated
- Ecological aspects are considered at the event.

Quality criteria

- Up-to-date annual theme.
- Thematic excursions and topics stands.
- An unifying element / shared product.
- Presence of the mascots Lotta & Lars.
- Public relations highlights.
- Testimonials.
- Evaluation of the meeting.
- The hosting organisation presents a 4-year plan.
- Find a major sponsor.
- At least 150-250 participants.

Detailed information about how to organise and hold meetings can be found in the “National Junior Ranger Meetings” hand-book (in German only).

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