



GUIDELINES AND CHECKLIST TO ESTABLISH A JUNIOR RANGER PROGRAM IN YOUR COUNTRY/PROTECTED AREA

The European Ranger Federation encourages rangers to implement a *Junior Ranger Program* (JRP) in their protected areas, nature reserves, national parks or other areas where rangers are working. Starting a JRP can seem a daunting task for one person. So it is advisable to have some discussions with colleagues and to establish with their help a working group to take the project forward. Junior Ranger Programs are a great way to lift the profile of the ranger profession in your area and it is a very good way to sensitize people and administrations for the challenges of your protected area.

These guidelines are the outcomes of an international Train the Trainer workshop held in Switzerland in April 2019 by Rangers of the Greifensee-Foundation and by the European Ranger Federation (ERF) with the collaboration of rangers from several European countries.

These guidelines has been structured in **four phases**.

PHASE 1 - considers the necessary basic reflexions and preparations for Phase 2.

PHASE 2 – considers the most important steps to find support from e.g.park managements, employers or others for running a JRP in your area/country.

PHASE 3 – considers the follow-up tasks needed once the decision is made to start a JRP.

PHASE 4 – considers the tasks necessary after starting a regular JRP.

PHASE 1

-considers the necessary basic reflexions for the launch of a JRP in your area

- Think about what kind of JRP you want to do. See attachment No.1 from the workshop in Switzerland and think about where would you rank your program on that scale?
- Think about starting in an area or nationwide (Start small for a big thing?)
- Estimate your resources - make the lead but let others help you - for example, make a workgroup.
- Think about the biggest problems / challenges for rangers in your area and what can be the positive effects of a JRP in this regard.
- Think about the medium and long term goals of your JRP.
- Think about the target groups of your JRP.
- Think about who your key contact person / client is for implementing a future JRP (for example, park management, regional administration, other partners).
- Include communities in your planning and all other important stakeholders in the region.
- Plan your project as long term as possible.
- Think about what forms of funding there might be for your project.
- Make a budget for spending in planning phase 1 & 2 (eg printing costs, information material, travel expense meetings ...)

Using the information gathered in Phase 1, you should now ensure that you have some people to help you and if there is sufficient interest and if you are prepared well to move to **PHASE 2**

PHASE 2

-considers the most important steps to find support from e.g.park managements, employers or others for running a JRP in your area/country.

Having established that there is sufficient interest in building up a JRP in your area/country you should now consider the following helping steps, hints and tips to go further.

- Write a profile / business card of the JRP.
- If possible, users should use the ERF template (for free) for the business card to present the JRP in a professional manner to important contacts (such as park management, sponsors, other partners ...). See image No. 2 of example brochure attached. (Ask ERF Project Officer if help is needed)
- Make a budget with full cost accounting.
- Write down a detailed concept of the JRP (possibly use the JR concept of the Swiss Rangers as an aid).
- Present to the park management, regional / national administration, eventual clients and sponsors the profile / business card and your well elaborated concept.
- Prepare well for discussions with the contact persons / clients and be convincing. Be proud of your project and show how successfully JRP has become established in many other areas and countries.
- Show how important a JRP is for protected areas, important natural landscapes etc. and for the work of Rangers. Highlight the unique selling proposition of the JRP over other environmental education programs.
- Try to work the working time of the performing Ranger of the JRP (main cost factor) over the normal working time of the Rangers (important point of negotiation with potential clients / park management etc ...)
- Find sponsors, sponsors etc. for the JRP (see ERF Guidelines fundraising).

PHASE 3

- considers the follow-up tasks needed once the decision is made to start a JRP.

After a definite commitment for the implementation (possibly also as a pilot project) of a JRP by, for example, client, park management, financier, you can now start the detailed planning for the realization of the first events.

- Perform, for example, an information day (for example, "Being a Junior Ranger for one day") with a small hand-made diploma.
- Determine responsible Junior Ranger leaders for the various participating areas.
- Inform or invite the press to the first event (s) to report.
- In the future, recruit junior rangers in the communities, schools, etc.
- Make advertising (like posters, social media, press etc.)
- Create a binding registration form for the participants which must be signed by the parents (including liability of the parents and rights to use the images for example the blog or other social media)
- Set up a Junior Ranger blog (for example, Word Press). If possible use a simple, short and clear webaddress for the blog (not long addresses like this example " www.0678word-press 2019-junior-rangers-countryname...")
- Create a national logo and, where appropriate, different area logos and produce a flag bearing the logo for public relation activities.
- Produce the first gadgets with the logo (for example t-shirts, caps etc.). Pay attention to a sustainable, local, environmentally friendly production of the articles.
- Schedule dates for Junior Ranger meetings for the whole year.
- Determine a possible participant contribution.
- Make the different Junior Ranger groups as similaras possible regarding the range of age and pay attention to a maximum size of the groups per ranger.
- Set up a shared folder online for all leaders of Junior Ranger groups in the different areas to exchange information (eg Dropbox).

PHASE 4

- considers the follow-up tasks needed once the decision is made to start a JRP.

- Start the Junior Ranger Program and start a first evaluation session as soon as possible with the Leader of the JRP of the different areas.

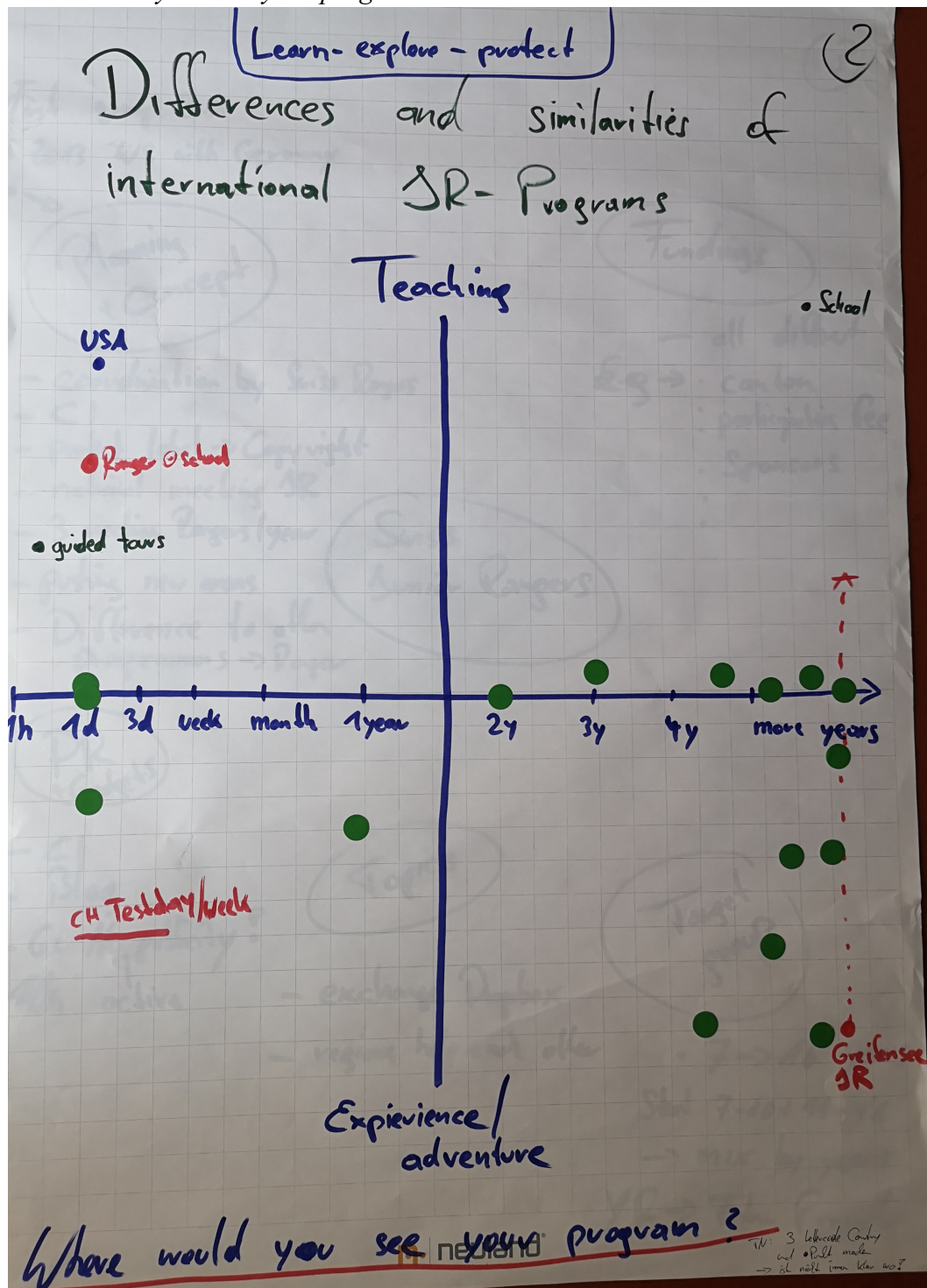
- Schedule two to three more annual sessions with the Junior Ranger Experience Sharing Leaders.
- Try to extend your now successful running JRP to more and other areas of your country.
- Plan to participate with some Junior Rangers on international youth exchange programs.
- If possible, arrange a public information event held by and with the Junior Rangers once a year (for example, on World Ranger Day 31st of July).
- Conduct a meeting of all National Junior Rangers in changing areas once a year. Combine this occasion with a fun outdoor competition in which the different areas compete against each other through outdoor tasks and games. Lead a Challenge Cup as a prize for each winning area (team).

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Attachements:

1) where would you rank your program on the scale:



2) Examples for ERF brochures (Logo to be changed into the right ERF Logo)



Useful links:

JR Blog Switzerland (german): <https://junior-ranger-schweiz.ch/>

JR Germany (german): <http://junior-ranger.de/>

JR program USA: <https://www.nps.gov/kids/jrRangers.cfm>

JR Australia (Victoria state): <https://juniorrangers.com.au/>

Europarc good practice guide for JR programs:

https://www.europarc.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/05/JuniorRangerProgs_GoodPractice-EAI.pdf