

The Junior Ranger Project (JRP) is a Europarc Federation pilot project, which has been going on in many European states as well as outside Europe since 2002. The main aim of JRP is first and foremost to boost the image of protected areas management bodies by influencing children and subsequently people round them (parents, schoolmates etc.).

The thesis comprises five self-contained one-day JRP programs created ad hoc to work with youngsters in the field of nature conservation and ecology. In the programs, children are introduced to the job of protected area conservationists. They become Junior Rangers and acquire and develop abilities and skills that every real rangers must possess. A ranger should know a lot about nature but he should also be able to pass information in an appropriate manner. To know how to communicate and react in conflict or crisis is very important for him.

The thesis thus contains programs focused on learning about natural conditions of protected areas (reserves), training to build up skills facilitating staying in nature, and communication training.