



# Youth at the Top 2023

## July 13<sup>th</sup> 2023 – 9<sup>th</sup> Edition

### PROJECT SHEET

#### I. The Event

An excursion in the mountains for young people in every Alpine country and in the Carpathians on the common date of **July 13<sup>th</sup> 2023**.

Youth at the Top has a highly symbolic dimension: hundreds of young people can experience and live the mountains on the same day.

#### Youth at the Top 2023 includes:

- A hike with an **overnight stay** in the mountains with groups of young people
- Educational activities to let the younger generation discover and experience the Alpine and Carpathian natural and cultural heritage
- Educational activities on the **common theme**: “**Forest – the Almighty**”
- Common communication tools shared with all the partner organisations

#### II. Aims

- To strengthen the relationship of the younger generation with nature and the mountain environment
- To raise young people’s awareness on nature protection and conservation
- To reinforce young people’s feeling of belonging to one common area, the Alps, as well as their feeling of being part of the European area
- To reinforce the notion of solidarity and share a moment in a group with the young participants
- To mobilise Alpine stakeholders around a unique and unifying project
- To make visible the educational initiatives of the Alpine protected areas and of all the organisations taking part in the event

#### III. Target Group

- Formal or non-formal groups of young people aged **from 6 to 25 years old**.
- Groups of young people living in the Alpine valleys or with fewer social/economic opportunities are highly encouraged to get involved.

## IV. Activities

A common general framework is given. However, the development of Youth at the Top at local level is flexible; it depends on the needs and the aims of each group of young people and the educational approach of the adult responsible for the event.

### *During the day*

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- Going outside for a walk or a trek to reach a summit, a mountain hut or a refuge
- Enhancing the ascent with games or nature-spotting activities
- Sensitizing and disseminating knowledge about the common cultural and natural heritage of the Alps via the pedagogical tool "The Alps in my Backpack" (**Appendix 2**)
- To raise awareness of the importance of forest in the mountain environment, through activities on the common theme of "**Forest – the Almighty**" (all the organisations registered will be provided with a collection of activities on the topic – **Appendix 3**)

### *During the night time*

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- Experiencing **the mountains** and nature with the group of young people by
  - gazing at the stars
  - observing the mountains at twilight or dawn
  - going on walk at night
  - making a fire (if allowed in the protected area) and sharing tales around the fire

### *During and after the event*

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On July 13<sup>th</sup> 2023, the organisers are invited to plan various activities regarding the official theme of the 9<sup>th</sup> edition of Youth at the Top: "**Forest – the Almighty**" and to combine cultural heritage and artistic creation!

As part of Youth at the Summit 2023, a video contest will be organized for the first time. There are no limits to creativity. The best 5 videos will then be selected by a jury and awarded a prize.

The children and teenagers will learn in small groups to produce short videos with the smartphone - like a real professional. They will produce their own short films of no more than 30 seconds on this year's theme. More details about the video contest will be shared shortly.



Youth at the Top 2022 © Parco Naturale Mont-Avic, Italien Roberto Facchini



Youth at the Top 2022 © Hohe Tauern Tirol, Nationalpark Austria Simon Zeiner

## V. Communication

Each organisation that is registered as a partner for Youth at the Top 2023 has at its disposal.

### *Common communication tools*

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- A common graphic identity: the Youth at the Top logo (available for download [here](#))
- An [official website](#) in 5 languages including:
  - an event session in which is presented briefly each local event/ per country
  - an interactive map of the Alps and Carpathians on which each local event is visible
- A common customized poster
- A [Facebook page](#) administered by ALPARC

All the partners are invited to make use of these tools to communicate with the young participants.



© Pieniny National Park, Slowakei, K.Kiskova



Youth at the Top 2022 © Parc naturel régional du Massif des Bauges, France, Matthieu Thomas Youth at the Top 2022

### *Shared communication material*

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Each organisation registered officially as a partner of the event commits itself to:

- communicating locally about its action via press release, articles or social networks
- sharing/informing the material with ALPARC to allow for keeping track of an international press review
- sharing some communicational material with ALPARC according to the details described in the **Appendix Sheet 1**
- taking part in the online survey after the event. This feedback will help us improve the event for the next edition.

## VI. Coordination

The 9<sup>th</sup> edition of Youth at the Top is coordinated by ALPARC – The Alpine Network of Protected Areas. ALPARC is responsible for the general management and international communication of the project. In particular, ALPARC collects the registration form, shares and updates the common communication tools and is responsible for the regular update of the website and social networks.

## VII. Registration & Financial Support

The Youth to the Top initiative is open to any organisation in the Alps or Carpathians that promotes the values detailed above. In order to benefit from the joint coordination of the project, each organiser of a local event is asked to **register on the official website** (<https://youth-at-the-top.org/en/>), before **30 April 2023**.

The 9th edition of Youth at the Top, is supported by the German Ministry for the Environment (BMUV) and the Principality of Monaco. This grant allows ALPARC to carry out the project and to ensure the international coordination as well as the overall communication activities. **ALPARC members** can benefit from financial support for the organisation of their local events. They must apply for this when they register.

### FOR ALPARC MEMBERS

The 2023 edition will again benefit from financial grants from the BMUV to partially cover the costs of local events. Please note that the reimbursement of local costs is only directed to **official ALPARC members**. To benefit from this reimbursement, official ALPARC members are asked to complete a co-funding application prior to the event. **In return, organizations requesting co-funding agree to make participation as free as possible for young participants.**

In return, members requesting co-financing commit themselves to

- To make the participation free of charge for the young participants (as far as possible)
- To provide proof of expenses incurred after the event (invoices), for an amount at least equal to that granted



Youth at the Top 2022 © Aree Protette Alpi Marittime, Italien, Mario Dalmasso

### Contact

#### ALPARC

The Alpine Network of Protected Areas

**Michelle GERINGER**

**Project Manager**

[michelle.geringer@alparc.org](mailto:michelle.geringer@alparc.org)

+33 04 79265502

*The 9<sup>th</sup> edition of Youth at the Top is organized by ALPARC with the financial support from the German Ministry of the Environment and the Principality of Monaco.*



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