



Youth at the Top 2025 July 17th, 2025 – 11th Edition

PROJECT SHEET

I. The Event

An excursion in the mountains for young people in all Alpine countries and in the Carpathians on the common date of **July 17th, 2025**.

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

Youth at the Top 2025 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: 'Our Footprints in the Alps'
- 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 to be part of Europe
- 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 give visibility to 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 the local level is flexible; it depends on the needs and the aims of each group of young people and the educational approach of the adults responsible for the event.

During the day

- 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 with the pedagogical tool 'The Alps in my Backpack'
- Raising awareness of the various dimensions of human impact on the mountains, through activities on the common theme **'Our Footprints in the Alps'** (all the organisations registered will be provided with a collection of activities on the topic)

During the night time

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

During and after the event

On July 17th, 2025, the organisers are invited to plan various activities regarding the official theme of the 11th edition of Youth at the Top **'Our Footprints in the Alps'!**

In addition, the educational tool 'The Alps in my Backpack', that was updated for the 10th edition of Youth at the Top in 2024 can be used to discuss current topics such as Alpine flora and fauna, climate change or the impact of outdoor activities on wildlife.



Youth at the Top 2024 © Borgna, Aree Protette Alpi Marittime



Youth at the Top 2024 © Cyril Bouvet, Parc naturel regional du Massif des Bauges

V. Communication

Each organisation that is registered as a partner for Youth at the Top 2025 has the following instruments and materials at its disposal:

Common communication tools

- A common graphic identity: the Youth at the Top logo (available for download <u>here</u>)
 - An official website <u>https://youth-at-the-top.org/en</u> in 5 languages including:
 - an event session in which is presented briefly each local event/ per country
 - o an interactive map of the Alps and Carpathians on which each local event is visible
- A common customized poster

All the partners are invited to make use of these tools to promote the local event.



Youth at the Top 2024 © Samirah Hohl, Naturpark Beverin



Youth at the Top 2024 © Biosphärenpark Nockberge

Shared communication material

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

- Communicating locally about its action through press releases, articles or social networks
- Sharing/informing the material (links, articles) with ALPARC
- Sharing some communicational material with ALPARC according to the details described in the <u>Appendix Sheet 1</u>
- Taking part in the online survey after the event. This feedback will help us improve the event for the next edition.

VI. Coordination

The 11th 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.

VII. Registration & Financial Support

The Youth to the Top initiative is open to any organization in the Alps or Carpathians that promotes the values detailed above. To benefit from the joint coordination of the project, each organizer of a local event is asked to **register on the official website** (<u>https://youth-at-the-top.org/en/</u>), before **30 April 2025**.

The 11th 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 organization of their local events. They must apply for this when they register.

FOR ALPARC MEMBERS

The 2025 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, members requesting co-financing commit themselves to:

- Make the participation free of charge for the young participants (as far as possible).
- Provide proof of expenses incurred after the event (invoices), for an amount at least equal to what they were granted.



Youth at the Top 2024 © Naturpark Nagelfluhkette

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