

Youth at the Top 2026

July 16th, 2026 – 12th 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 16th, 2026**.

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 2026 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: 'One Mountain – Many Ecosystems'**
- 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/Carpathians, 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 diversity of ecosystems within mountain landscapes through activities linked to the common theme '**One Mountain – Many Ecosystems**'. Activities may explore several ecosystems within one mountain area or focus in depth on a single ecosystem, highlighting its species, functions and challenges. All registered organisations will receive a collection of suggested activities on the topic.

During the night time

- 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 a walk at night
 - making a fire (if allowed in the (protected) area) and sharing tales around the fire



Youth at the Top 2025
Parc naturel régional du Massif des Bauges ©Sylvain Dussans



Youth at the Top 2025
Parco naturale Mont Avic ©R. Facchini

V. Communication

Each organisation that is registered as a partner for Youth at the Top 2026 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 [here](#))
- An official website <https://youth-at-the-top.org/en> 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

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



Youth at the Top 2025
Aree Protette delle Alpi Marittime ©Irene Borgna



Youth at the Top 2025
Biosphärenpark Nockberge ©Heinz Mayer

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 [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 12th 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** (<https://youth-at-the-top.org/en/>), before **May 20th, 2026**.

The 12th edition of Youth at the Top is supported by the Principality of Monaco and ALPARC. 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. It is necessary to apply for financial support when registering.

FOR ALPARC MEMBERS

The 2026 edition will benefit from financial grants from the Principality of Monaco and ALPARC 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

Contact

ALPARC

The Alpine Network for Protected Areas

info@alparc.org

+33 04 79265502

*The 12th edition of Youth at the Top is organized and coordinated by ALPARC
with the financial support from the Principality of Monaco.*

