

Cairngorms National Park Junior Ranger Project: 2025 Review

169
Junior
Rangers

58
sessions

35
partners

15
Ranger
Services



Cairngorms
National Park

Pàirc Nàiseanta a'
Mhonaidh Ruaidh



Overview

The Cairngorms National Park Junior Ranger Project is an exciting, fun and adventurous outdoor learning programme for young people aged 11–18 years based on the EUROPARC model.

The project aims to engage young people living within the Cairngorms National Park catchment area and give them the opportunity to act as advocates for the Cairngorms. Through a wide variety of activities, they develop skills, experience and confidence whilst helping to improve our natural environment.



Junior Rangers planting trees on RSPB Abernethy
© Duncan MacDonald



Junior Rangers at Glenlivet making SOAC posters
© Emily Alsford



Junior Rangers with the Cairngorms Reindeer Herd © Emily Alsford



Junior Rangers in Glenmore Forest Park © Emily Alsford

Project partners

The support of 40+ partners throughout the Cairngorms National Park has been key to the success of the Cairngorms National Park Junior Ranger Project.

We are also grateful to the parents, guardians and teachers of over 169 junior rangers that have taken part over the past three years.

In 2025, 35 committed partners delivered 58 sessions across the Cairngorms National Park.



Schools programme

In 2025, 79 pupils from the six high schools in the Cairngorms National Park catchment once again took part in at least five-days of Junior Ranger activity.

The Junior Rangers had a range of opportunities to better connect to nature through practical conservation work and adventurous activity. They also got to meet a wide range of rural workers. At the end of their experiences the Junior Rangers all delivered a short talk or video to teachers, parents, partners and peers.

1. Paddleboarding with Pitlochry High School
2. Deerstalking session from Wildland for Grantown Grammar School pupils.
3. Sharing presentations for parents and teachers at Alford Academy.
4. Kingussie High School Junior Rangers looking at wildcat camera footage with Saving Wildcats.
5. Ring barking Sitka Spruce at Balmoral with Aboyne Academy.
6. Building bug hotels with Speyside High School.

1



2



6



5



4



3




Schools

Photo credits Will George, Emily Alsford and Pete Short

Monthly programme

The monthly programme in 2025 was very varied, with 21 sessions and a three-day camp. In total 90 Junior Rangers enjoyed having a positive impact on the natural environment of the Cairngorms whilst learning new skills and gaining confidence. You can see some examples of what they got up to in the photos on this page.

SCRA Junior Ranger Award

We were proud to congratulate 12 junior rangers for completing the Scottish Countryside Ranger Association Junior Ranger Award.

The Award recognises commitment to rangership and to achieving a variety of relevant competencies, including getting to know and care for your area, helping visitors, interpretation and teamwork.



Junior Rangers with Braemar Mountain Rescue © Braemar Mountain Rescue



Junior Rangers in their hoodies having completed the SCRA Junior Ranger Award © Will George



Junior Rangers leading nature engagement activities, Deeside © Will George



Junior Rangers making Christmas crafts at Balmoral © Lucy Ford

Cairngorms Dùthchas Award

The Junior Rangers taking part in the 2026 school discovery weeks will have the opportunity to complete the new [Cairngorms Dùthchas Award](#). The Gaelic word Dùthchas encompasses ideas of kinship, heritage and connections between nature, people and place. And this exciting outdoor learning award inspires people to love, learn about, and look after the National Park

2026 Camps

Planning is underway for a 3-day expedition in July that will give some Junior Rangers the opportunity to explore a more remote part of the Cairngorms. And two junior rangers will hopefully attend the EUROPARC camp in Norway.



Junior Ranger Camp, Blair Atholl 2025 © Emily Alsford