

# Cairngorms National Park Junior Ranger Project: 2024 Review

178

Junior  
Rangers

55

sessions

34

partners

16

Ranger  
Services



Cairngorms  
National Park

Pàirc Nàiseanta a'  
Mhonaidh Ruaidh



Junior rangers hiking out of Loch A'an © Pete Short



# 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 Ranger building leaky dams with The River Dee Trust © Will George



Junior Rangers with the Scottish First Minister © ScotGov



Junior Rangers at Cairngorms Connect Hill to Grill © Catriona Parmenter Photography



Junior Rangers tree climbing in Glen Tanar © Will George



# 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 250 junior rangers that have taken part over the past three years.

In 2024, 34 committed partners delivered 55 sessions across the Cairngorms National Park.

Spin Project  
Ride In Peace Adventures  
Rothes Community Trust  
Wildland Ltd  
River Dee Trust  
NTS North East  
Cairngorm Mountain  
Highlife Highland  
Dorenell Ranger Service  
Aberdeenshire Council  
RSPB Insh Marshes  
Glen Tanar Charitable Trust  
Cairngorms Connect  
Loch Insh Outdoor Centre  
Glenlivet Estate  
Grantown  
Balmoral Castle And Estate  
Forestry and Land Scotland  
Speyside Trail Association  
Rothiemurchus Estate  
RSPB Insh Marshes  
Glen Tanar Charitable Trust  
Cairngorms Connect  
Loch Insh Outdoor Centre  
Glenlivet Estate  
Grantown  
Balmoral Castle And Estate  
Grammar School Cairngorms  
NTS National Park Authority  
NatureScot Muir Of Dinnet  
Scottish Countryside Rangers Association  
NTS North Perthshire  
Aboyne Academy  
Highland Wildlife Park (RZSS)  
Highland Folk Museum  
Kingussie High School

# Schools programme

In 2024, 85 pupils from the six high schools in the Cairngorms National Park catchment once again took part in five-day Junior Ranger 'Discovery Weeks'.

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. Certificate presentations at the Park Authority office for Grantown Grammar School pupils
3. Exploring waterfalls at Burn O'Vat with Alford Academy
4. Bike trail building with Kingussie High School
5. Moth trapping and identification with Aboyne Academy
6. Deerstalking session with Speyside High School

1



2



6



5



3



4



  
Schools

All photo credits Pete Short and Will George



# Monthly programme

The monthly programme in 2024 was the most varied yet, with 22 sessions and a three day expedition. In total 82 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 five 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 collecting rowan berries for seed in Abernethy Forest © Pete Short



Junior Ranger with Landward Presenter Anne McAlpine © BBC



Junior Rangers having lunch on the Cairngorm Plateau © Pete Short



Junior Rangers picking up Mishmi takin poo at the Highland Wildlife Park © Will George



# Expedition

In July, 15 Junior Rangers embarked on a three-day expedition from Linn O' Dee to Cairngorm Mountain, carrying all their own gear, navigating and working together while taking part in conservation tasks along the way.

We're already looking forward to planning the next camp in 2025!

## RSPB Nature of Scotland Awards

The Cairngorms National Park Junior Ranger Project won the Youth Action Award at RSPB Nature of Scotland Awards 2024. The annual event recognises individuals and organisations making a difference in communities, schools and businesses to support Scotland's wildlife and natural environment.

It's exciting to see our inspiring Junior Rangers being given this national recognition. The Youth Action Award is testament to the hard work and dedication of these young people, who are so passionate about the environment and safeguarding it for the future.



Junior rangers reflecting on day one of the expedition  
© Will George

Junior rangers planting willow saplings in Loch Avon  
© Ellie Dimambro-Denson



Junior rangers and parents with the Nature of Scotland Award © Louise Took