

## Ring of Gullion Youth Rangers 2016

1<sup>st</sup> March 2016

Dear Potential Youth Ranger

### Letter for Potential Youth Rangers

Thank you for expressing an interest in being a part of the Ring of Gullion Youth Rangers Programme. With this letter you will find some more detailed information about the scheme, a letter for your parents/carers, the programme schedule, a copy of the Youth Rangers Code of Behaviour and an application form.

The Ring of Gullion Youth Rangers is aimed at 14-17 year olds from the Ring of Gullion area. The programme is 10 days long and will be running from 18<sup>th</sup> July to 29<sup>th</sup> July (excluding the weekend). Each day will run from 9.30am to 4.00pm and the coach stand in the Slieve Gullion Forest Park will be used as a central drop off and collection point. Each day you will have the opportunity to learn an outdoor skill and get hands on with some practical environmental work. It will give you an insight into what is involved in environmental management.

You should come in clothes suitable for exploring and working outdoors (including waterproof jacket and trousers, if you have them), long trousers (**not shorts** as these do not provide suitable leg protection) and sturdy footwear (walking boots or work boots). If necessary, we will lend participants waterproofs and other equipment when these are required.

Not only is this scheme a great opportunity for you to get some practical experience and learn about looking after the environment, but it is also a good way to get out and about in the Ring of Gullion during your summer holidays. You'll be able to learn first aid, canoeing and survival skills as well as work towards an Explorer level John Muir Award ([www.johnmuiraward.org](http://www.johnmuiraward.org)). In return we expect all Youth Rangers to participate as fully as possible in the activities, to contribute to the efforts of the team and to adhere to our code of conduct. To learn more about the type of activities you will be taking part in please have a look at the enclosed schedule.

We would hope you will be able to commit to all of the Ranger Days, but if you have a prearranged family holiday or another engagement please mention it on the application form, as it will assist us with planning activities.

If you decide that this programme is for you I would urge you to apply as soon as possible. Please make sure that your parent/carer reads the information and signs the application form to give their consent. Remember the applications must be with us by **Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> May**.

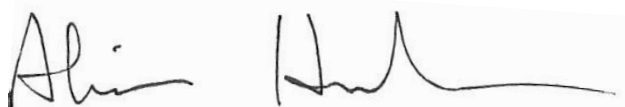
If you have any queries about the Ring of Gullion Youth Rangers, please do not hesitate to contact us using the details below, or you can visit our Crossmaglen office at the address below.

**Please note that you must be 14 or older by the start of the course and under 18 for the duration of the programme.**

**Please also note that places are limited on this scheme, so please ensure your application is submitted as soon as possible and at the latest before the **closing date of Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> May**. We may have to use a selection process if applications exceed the places available. We will endeavour to have a 50:50 ratio of boys and girls.**

We look forward to receiving your application and to a great summer of activity by the Ring of Gullion Youth Rangers.

Yours sincerely,



Alison Henderson  
Volunteer & Outreach Officer  
Tel: 028 3082 8594  
Email: [volunteer@ringofgullion.org](mailto:volunteer@ringofgullion.org)

1<sup>st</sup> March 2016

Dear Parent/Carer

### **Letter to parent/carers of potential Youth Rangers**

Your child has expressed an interest in participating in the Ring of Gullion Youth Ranger Programme. With this letter you will find more details about the scheme:

- An application form
- A letter to prospective Ring of Gullion Youth Rangers
- Youth Ranger schedule
- A copy of the Youth Rangers Code of Behaviour
- Our selection criteria

Please read this information carefully and decide if you are happy for your child to apply to be one of the Ring of Gullion Youth Rangers. Please check all the information on the application form and sign the form to show your consent.

The scheme will run for 10 days from 18<sup>th</sup> July to 29<sup>th</sup> July (excluding the weekend). Slieve Gullion Forest Park will act as a central drop-off and collection point for the Youth Rangers. The Youth Rangers need to be at the coach stop of the Forest Park by 9.30am, to meet the bus which will take them on to the day's activity location. A member of staff will be on site from 9am, should you need to drop off your child earlier, however please let us know beforehand if this is your plan. The Youth Rangers will be returned to Slieve Gullion Forest Park for collection by 4.30pm. **The Youth Ranger Scheme is free, however we ask for a £50 deposit to secure a place for your child.** Your deposit will be returned at the end of the course as long as your child attends at least 8 out of the 10 days.

The participants should come in clothes suitable for working and exploring outdoors (including waterproof jackets and trousers if they have them) and sturdy footwear (preferably walking boots); they should also bring a packed lunch and plenty of drinking water and sun cream. We will lend participants waterproofs, if they don't have their own, and other equipment as these are required. Please see the schedule for the range of activities which are covered.

We hope you will agree that this scheme is a great opportunity for young people to get some practical conservation experience, whilst learning valuable life skills, such as first aid, team work and a John Muir Award ([www.johnmuiraward.org](http://www.johnmuiraward.org)). It is also an excellent opportunity for them to explore the Ring of Gullion during the summer holidays and contribute something to its conservation. Your child will also have the opportunity to gain qualifications in canoeing and Leave No Trace. In return we would expect all Youth Rangers to participate as fully as possible in the activities, to contribute to the efforts of the team and to adhere to our code of conduct.

We are preferably looking for Youth Rangers who live locally in the Ring of Gullion Landscape Partnership Area and who are able to commit to all of the Ranger Days, but this is not essential. If you have a prearranged family holiday or another engagement which would prevent attendance at one or more of these days, please do mention it on the application form as we do need to be able to plan for numbers for each activity.

All staff working on the programme are fully trained in the activities they are providing, are qualified first aiders and abide by child protection policies and codes of conduct.

**Please note that your child must be 14 or older by the start of the course and under 18 for the duration of the programme.**

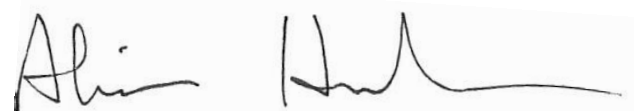
**Please note that places are limited on this scheme, so please ensure your child's application is submitted as soon as possible – and at the latest before the **closing date of Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> May**.**

**We may have to use a selection process if applications exceed the places available. We will endeavour to have a 50:50 ratio of boys and girls. All things being equal, priority will be given to children living in the Ring of Gullion Landscape Partnership Area.**

If you have any queries about the Ring of Gullion Youth Rangers, please do not hesitate to contact us, using the details below, or you can visit our Crossmaglen office at the address below.

If you decide that this programme is suitable for your child, please check that the form is fully completed (including the medical information) and signed. I would urge you to apply as soon as possible.

Yours sincerely,



Alison Henderson

Volunteer & Outreach Officer

Tel: 028 3082 8594

Email: [volunteer@ringofgullion.org](mailto:volunteer@ringofgullion.org)

\*A copy of our child protection policy is available on request.

## **General Youth Ranger Schedule 2016**

Please note that this is a general schedule and may be subject to change.

**Day 1: Team building & navigation day, Slieve Gullion**

**Day 2: Site restoration, Jonesborough CoI graveyard**

**Day 3: Remote Emergency Care First Aid; valid for 3 years, Jonesborough**

**Day 4: Biodiversity Surveys, Bessbrook**

**Day 5: Litter lift & canoeing, Camlough Lake**

**Day 6: Path Maintenance & hill walking, Slieve Gullion**

**Day 7: Zombie Apocalypse Survival Training, location TBC**

**Day 8: Habitat Restoration, Jonesborough Forest**

**Day 9: Surprise Adventure Activity, location TBC**

**Day 10: Conservation and presentation day, location TBC**

Each Youth Ranger, in turn, will be responsible for writing a blog of the day's activities for the Ring of Gullion website.

**Day 1:** Get to know your group leaders and fellow Youth Rangers through fun games and challenges. Receive an introduction to what's involved in the rest of the programme. Orienteering – put your newly acquired map reading and navigation skills into practice.

**Day 2:** Removing weeds and unwanted vegetation from Jonesborough Church of Ireland graveyard, cleaning the graves and continuing previous work to restore the site to a useable state.

**Day 3:** Learn how to deal with conscious and unconscious patients, bleeding, broken bones and minor illnesses. This is a recognised first aid qualification; valid for three years. It is useful to have when out exploring and also looks great on a CV.

**Day 4:** Walking and surveying in the Slieve Gullion area, learning about the different ecosystems in the area and how they are affected by alien invasive species. Map any sightings of alien invasive species.

**Day 5:** Examining the impact of littering on the lake environment and the main types of litter found there. The litter lift will be followed by canoeing on Camlough Lake, working towards a PaddleStart qualification. There will also be plenty of opportunity for water games.

**Day 6:** Basic path maintenance on Slieve Gullion Mountain in the morning, followed by an exploration of the mountain environment including its habitats, archaeology and legends.

**Day 7:** Learn how to survive in the wild after the zombie apocalypse with nothing more than your bug out bag (emergency survival kit). Learn how to make a shelter and safe camp fire without leaving any trace that you were there.

**Day 8:** Reopening blocked paths, basic path maintenance and habitat improvement.

**Day 9:** A surprise adventure activity exploring the Ring of Gullion.

**Day 10:** This final day will mostly be determined by the Youth Rangers and a few options will be available to choose from.

## Code of conduct for Youth Rangers

### Youth Rangers should follow key points of the outdoor code:

- Take responsibility for your own actions
- Respect the interests of other people
- Care for the environment

### Youth Rangers should also:

- Participate fully within activities
- Work as part of a team and support the aims of the team

### Youth Rangers should never:

- Engage in physical or suggestive games of horseplay
- Display any forms of bullying behaviour
- Use inappropriate language

### Sanctions for Rangers

- Where a staff member, group leader or group members feels that the code of behaviour has been breached the individual concerned will be verbally warned by their group leader. Should the breach of the code be continued, the group leader will make a decision on whether the group task should be abandoned or the individual concerned given a different role.

### Disciplinary Procedure

- The participants will be given a thorough briefing on the Code of Behaviour; this is also provided in written form in the information supplied to participants. If the code is breached, a verbal warning will be issued. A second breach will result in a written warning being issued to the participant (and copied to their parent/carer). Any subsequent breach will result in their exclusion from the programme, which will be advised verbally and in writing to both the participant and their parent/carer.
- Any participant whose behaviour could result in danger to the health and safety of themselves or others could be immediately excluded without resorting to verbal and written warnings.

## Youth Ranger Application Form 2016

### **CONFIDENTIAL**

*The information on this form is confidential and will be used to assist us in choosing the best candidates for the Youth Ranger Programme.*

### **PLEASE PRINT ALL DETAILS**

#### **Parent/Carer details**

Forename  Surname  Title

Address   
Postcode

Tel Number

Daytime :   
Evening :

Email address:

Does your child have any allergies, medical conditions or recent injuries we should be aware of?  
Yes/No

If yes please provide details below:

**Please note children must carry medication such as inhalers and epi-pens with them at all times throughout the programme and make leaders aware that they have them.**

Please provide next of kin contact details, in case of emergency, if different from above.

Name:  Relationship:

I permit my child to participate in the Youth Ranger programme and permit RoGLP and their appointed provider to take photos and videos of my child for use in the promotion\* of the Ring of Gullion Landscape Partnership and Youth Ranger programme.

Signature:  Date:

\*Photos and videos may be used in publications, press articles and websites for non profit making purposes.

#### **Participant Details**

Forename  Surname

Date of Birth:

For Office use only: Applicant number: \_\_\_\_\_

Q1. Why is the Ring of Gullion important to you? (100 words maximum – 40% weighting)

Q2. Why are you interested in becoming a Youth Ranger? (100 words maximum – 40% weighting)

Q3. Have you previously volunteered? Yes ☐ No ☐

If yes, what did you do and how often? (100 words maximum – 20% weighting)

**Availability** – Preference will be given to applicants available for the full 2 week programme. Please advise us of any holidays or other events which might prevent you from attending any of the Ranger Days. Youth Ranger days will be held on the 18<sup>th</sup>/ 19<sup>th</sup>/ 20<sup>th</sup>/ 21<sup>st</sup>/ 22<sup>nd</sup> / 25<sup>th</sup>/ 26<sup>th</sup>/ 27<sup>th</sup>/ 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> July 2016. Please mark which days you cannot attend.

**Youth Ranger Health Declaration** – “I understand that being a Youth Ranger may be physically demanding. I consider myself fit to undertake the tasks I have expressed an interest in and agree to inform the Ring of Gullion Landscape Partnership of any changes to my health.”

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_



The Data Protection Act 1998 sets rules for processing personal information. The data we have asked for is collected for administrative and insurance purposes, and to allow us to contact you with matters which may interest you. This information is for the sole use as described above.

**PLEASE RETURN COMPLETED FORM TO:**

Alison Henderson, Crossmaglen Community Centre, Crossmaglen, Co. Armagh, BT35 9AA

Or email: [alison.henderson@newryandmourne.gov.uk](mailto:alison.henderson@newryandmourne.gov.uk)

**Forms must be returned by Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> May 2016.**



Northern Ireland  
**Environment**  
Agency



An Agency within the Department of the  
**Environment**  
[www.doeni.gov.uk](http://www.doeni.gov.uk)

## Selection criteria for Youth Ranger Programme

Q1. Why is the Ring of Gullion important to you? – 40% weighting

Q2. Why are you interested in becoming a Youth Ranger? – 40% weighting

Q3. Have you previously volunteered? – 20% weighting

Mark	Description
5	Excellent response that demonstrates a full understanding of the question with excellent level of detail.
4	Good response that demonstrates an understanding of the question.
3	Acceptable response that demonstrates a level of understanding but with limited detail to provide a higher score.
2	Unacceptable response that failed to provide detailed information in response to the question.
1	Poor response with a lack of relevant information
0	Applicants response did not provide any relevant information

If there is a tie between candidates, then priority will be given to those living within the Ring of Gullion Landscape Partnership Area.