

11th JUNIOR ECO-EXPERT PROJECT

June 6th to 11th 2009 – Yspertal, Austria

Group division:

1. National Park Kalkalpen
2. Naturpark Ötscher-Tormäuer
3. National Park Gesäuse
4. Naturdenkmal Yspertal

The organizer of the 11th edition of JUNIOR ECO-EXPERT PROJECT was the school from YSPER in Austria. The topic of the workshops were: PROTECTED AREAS IN AUSTRIA. Within the group students were divided into smaller groups. In each of them there was one Pole, Austrian, Czech and Hungarian.

We were examining the condition of soil, water and were observing and getting to know vegetation and lands under protection. Moreover, they were getting to know with the history of particular areas.

On June 6th at 5 pm. the Polish group arrived in Ysper. The first evening was devoted to accommodation and walk around the nearest surroundings. Early on Sunday in the morning we were divided into 4 groups. The group, in which we were allocated, was assigned to Naturpark Ötscher-Tormäuer, a two-hour walk from Ysper.

After we had arrived, we were expected to set off on a nearly seven-hour trek to the shelter. On our way we were gathering samples of water, taking photos of the landscape and observing the vegetation. Unfortunately, at the end the weather got worse; at about 6 pm. we reached the shelter where we spent the night.

On Monday morning we set off on our way back. Fortunately, the track was easier than the previous day.

In the evening international volleyball contest took place, in which, of course, Poles were the winners ;-)

On Tuesday from the morning till the afternoon we were working on our presentations.

The research results were to be ready for Wednesday - the official summary of the project. After supper, in groups consisting of two Czechs, two Hungarians and two Poles we were sightseeing Yspertal. We got a card with questions to which we were supposed to know the answers. Presents awaited the best groups.

Wednesday morning was devoted to finishing up the presentations. At 2 pm. the summary of the workshops began, during which we presented the results of our research. Board of headmasters and mistresses of the schools taking part in this project, mayors of Yspertal, Veseli and representatives of the Ministry of Environment Protection from Austria and Czech Republic came to the festival. After the official presentation, it was time to show a short presentation of each country. We prepared folk and scout's music, poi show and dance- all in the background of shifting photos showing our country. After the official part had finished, we prepared a bonfire, which lasted to the long evening hours.

On Thursday morning, after breakfast, we tidied up our rooms and at about 11 am. we set off to Vienna. However, earlier we managed to take a walk along the streets in Yspertal and observe the Yspertal celebration of Corpus Christi.

A few hours later we reached Vienna. We visited Belveder, Hundertwasser Hause, St. Stephan Cathedral and a few beautiful monuments. Unfortunately, at the end the weather got worse and frozen we made our way back to the bus; however, greatly impressed by the viewed monuments. With our homecoming to Cieszyn before 11 pm. we finished the 11th edition of Yspertal Eco-Project 2009.