

PRESS RELEASE

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Giroparchi Nature Trail 2023: this year, the English-language nature trek tackles the sensitive topic of water

Summer 2023 sees Giroparchi Nature Trail blow out 11 candles. The English-speaking nature trek that takes young people from Valle d'Aosta between the ages of 11 and 14 for a hiking experience in the valleys of the Gran Paradiso National Park has been a sell-out since its first edition.

The initiative, devised and organised by Fondation Grand Paradis in collaboration with and with the financial contribution of the Gran Paradiso National Park Authority and the Permanent Secretariat of the Alpine Convention, this year invites participants to reflect on a very topical and delicate issue, i.e., water, tackled in various ways. During the five days of the trek, young people will be guided to question themselves in a conscious manner about water as a resource, as a heritage to be protected, as a habitat, and as a renewable source. In continuity with previous editions, the group will be accompanied by a teacher, a native English-speaking hiking guide and an operator from Fondation Grand Paradis.

The 2023 edition will take place entirely in the Rhêmes Valley. On the first day, the group will reach the Gollien pass via the Entrelor alpine pasture and descend into the Sort valley, stopping off at the Gran Paradiso National Park's Guardapark hut; the theme of the day will be the search for signs left by the evolution of the glaciers. Afterwards, the children will climb up to the Chaussettaz and Pechoud, passing by the ski lifts, and the theme of water use in summer and winter sports will be addressed. On the third day, after observing how humans have exploited water in ancient times through *ru* and mills in the Rhêmes-Notre-Dame valley bottom, the youngsters will climb to the Benevolo refuge, where they will stay for the next two days. From here, the group will reach the 2700-metre altitude of Lake Goletta and spend an afternoon experiencing rock climbing with a mountain guide. On the final day, walking along trails around the hut, a reflection on the impact of climate change on glaciers and on the availability of water resources will be proposed; they will then descend to Rhêmes-Notre-Dame, where the youngsters will be welcomed at 5 p.m. by their families and the community for a moment of celebration open to all.

Giroparchi Nature Trail will take place in two rounds: from 10 to 14 July and from 31 July to 4 August 2023, each welcoming 20 participants. The initiative is dedicated to young people from Valle d'Aosta with priority given to residents of the 7 municipalities of the Gran Paradiso National



Park: Aymavilles, Cogne, Introd, Rhêmes-Notre-Dame, Rhêmes-Saint-Georges, Valsavarenche, Villeneuve. The registration fee is 230 euros.

To register, you must fill in the form available at www.grand-paradis.it by 14/06/2023.

For those wishing to experience the atmosphere of the Giroparchi Nature Trail in advance, photos and videos of previous editions can be found at the link grand-paradis.it/en/gallery and on the YouTube channel youtube.com/FondGrandParadis