

NEWSLETTER JULY 2018

Award Ceremony 2018

The Award Ceremony for all participants who finished their Award level took place at Forum Campus Geesseknäppchen on April 18th. 242 young people, more than ever before, received their certificate that evening. Furthermore it was the occasion to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the *Méríte Jeunesse* in the presence of its founder H.R.H. Grand-Duc Jean.



Makaising Village Project Nepal, a project by students from the European School Kirchberg was awarded with the *Prix du Méríte* 2017. Among the young people who went to Nepal were also some *Méríte Jeunesse* Gold participants.



Stéphane Gilbart, a retired teacher from European School, who helped to establish the program in Luxembourg, talked about his experience from the beginning up to nowadays. Some of the very first Gold Award holders also shared moments they

appreciated and experiences they made. Young Award holders moderated and talked on stage about the different sections they completed. A dancer and several musicians also displayed their talent on stage.



After the Ceremony all the Award holders and their parents, the Award Leaders and all volunteers of the *Méríte* enjoyed an aperitif in a good atmosphere. H.R.H. Prince Guillaume and education minister Claude Meisch cut the birthday cake.

Trainings in February and March

The second Award Leader training for this school year took place at *Forum Campus Geesseknäppchen* at the end of February. Nine Award Leaders got their certificate to encourage young people to get through the program.



In March then, Georges Faber and Alex Gansen trained the Award Leaders for the expedition section. They got the input they need to lead expeditions and for the practical part they hiked to train orientation and map reading. Good luck and lots of fun to every new assessor and supervisor!



Residential project by Chenyan Yang

For her residential project, Chenyan Yang attended a conference of the European youth parliament in Strasbourg. She had the opportunity to meet a lot of interesting people from Luxembourg, but also from around Europe. In different groups they discussed current topics around the world to recognize the problems and to possibly find solutions. In a general assembly they presented their topics. For Chenyan it was an extraordinary experience and she also got to know herself a bit better. She intends to dedicate her time to youth organizations further on.



National expeditions

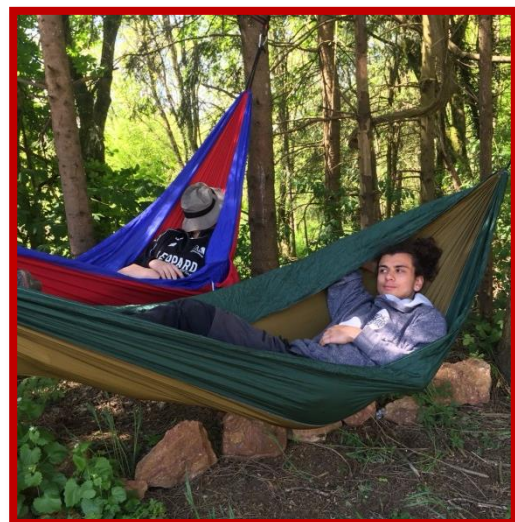
Bronze and Silver participants from 12 Units did their practice expedition in the south of Luxembourg from 13th-15th of April. They started at *Kockelscheuer* and hiked to the *Gaalgebierg* and back.



Three weeks later the youngsters met again to go on their qualifying journey. This time they hiked in the north of Luxembourg, between Erpeldange and Kauthenbach. Some feet blistered during the hiking tour, but anyway they all had a lot of fun.



Expedition of Lycée Hubert Clément Esch



Bronze participants from the Lycée Hubert Clément completed their qualifying expedition end of May. They walked for two days in the surroundings of Differdange.

Expedition of *the Internat du Nord*



When the team prepared their expedition, they talked about any possible precautions in case of rain, but the weekend they hiked the sun was shining and temperatures rose to 30 degrees. Anyway there was no reason to worry for the participants. They hiked from Koetschette to Wiltz. The aim of the journey was to observe the animals they discovered on their way.



A little joy to older people



Joé Wiesen from *Lycée Technique de Bonnevoie* had an adorable idea for his Service Section: He painted stones and gave them to people in a retirement home.

Expedition by *St. George's International School*



The Bronze participants from St George's International School hiked in Müllerthal for their qualifying journey in April. One month later the Silver participants travelled to France to do their expedition in the region of *Le Bonhomme*. End of August, Hayley Montague will travel with the youngsters to Interlaken in Switzerland for the Gold expedition.

Athénée goes South Africa

A group of youngsters from Athénée travelled to South Africa to work on a project with participants of the President's Award which is the equivalent program of the *Mérite Jeunesse*. They were accompanied by the head of school and president of the NGO A-AH (*Athénée action humanitaire*) Jos Salentiny and a few teachers, amongst them Renée Fernandes, Award Leader of the *Mérite Jeunesse*. They visited projects around Cape Town and participated in different activities.



To have a first-hand experience of the impact of their projects, the group from Luxembourg joined a Bronze hike along the fauna and flora rich Vista Trail in Mont Rochelle Nature Reserve in Franschhoek. The hike allowed them to see the vast contrast in environment that the youth from South Africa experience and live in.



At the end of the trip a ceremony was held to celebrate the two-year partnership in building a school for pre-school children. The event also marked the ten-year anniversary of the NGO *Athénée Action Humanitaire*.

Agenda

10.10.18	Award Leader evening
20. +21.10.18	Award Leader training (language LU)
10.11.18	Preliminary training expeditions
November 2018	Award Leader training (language EN)
09.02.19	Preliminary training expeditions
16.03.+30.03.19	Expedition training (language LU)
26.-28.04.19	National expedition practice
17.-19.05.19	National expedition qualifying journey

Quotes:

"The *Mérite Jeunesse* has given me the opportunity to receive an award for many of the activities I do. I was able to fill up most categories very quickly, which gave me a strong sense of achievement. The biggest effort for me was the hike; but it was a memorable experience. I was able to explore some of the beauty Luxembourg has to offer, while pushing my limits and still having fun. The Duke of Edinburgh Award is a great opportunity and I would strongly advise busy teenagers and young adults to invest their time and energy and participate in the program." – **Gold Participant Jordie Mills (AL)**

In one sentence, what does the Award mean to you?

"Help young people to develop and to promote their interests." – **Pol Hermes, Award Leader FNEL + LJBM**



Dear Participant...

Prix du Mérite

Are you a group of youngsters aged between 14-25 years and you have recently realized a project together? Then you can register for the next edition of the Prix du Mérite. It can be a cultural project, an adventurous or sports project, or a social project. You can apply until the 1st of December 2018. The registration form is available on our website.

Proud to be



Dear Award Leader...

Logos



The *M'rite Jeunesse* has a new Logo you can download:

<http://merite.jeunesse.lu/resources/award-unit-resources>

The Logo of the International Award has to be used as follows: Units use the Logo "Proud to deliver" and participants "Proud to be doing". On the website you also find a guideline how to use the Logos.

Update requirements adventurous journeys

An updated version of the document with the requirements of the expedition section is to consider from now on. You find it on the website:

<http://merite.jeunesse.lu/resources/award-unit-resources>

EU General Data Protection Regulation GDPR at M'rite Jeunesse:

Your data is important to us and we protect your data in compliance with the GDPR. For detailed information, please refer to our GDPR information notice on our website under "Resources – Various documents".

Registration form

A new template of the registration form should be used from now on:

<http://merite.jeunesse.lu/dokumenter/award-unit-resources>

Proud to be