

## NEWSLETTER OCTOBER 2019

### Rentrée Mérite Jeunesse 2019

At the beginning of the new school year, Mérite Jeunesse Luxembourg invited all Award Leaders to celebrate the “Rentrée Mérite Jeunesse”. For us, this is the perfect opportunity to say THANK YOU: Without you, the program could never be as successful as it is!

It also was a very informative evening. In the presence of Their Royal Highnesses Prince Guillaume and Princess Sibilla, and of the Mérite Jeunesse board members, all Award Leaders were invited to an evening with updates from the Luxembourg office, lively chats with their fellow colleagues, and a walking dinner.

Three members of the International Award Foundation (IAF) were also present, and enjoyed this opportunity to meet with Award Leaders here in Luxembourg. Please find a letter from the IAF at the end of this newsletter. The representatives from the IAF office in London have carried out a licence review visit (audit) of the Mérite Jeunesse, and we at the national office will keep you informed about the results.

Unfortunately, we were so busy chatting with everybody that we completely forgot to take pictures ... If you happen to have some pictures from the Award Leaders’ evening, or if you would like to receive the evening’s presentations, please contact us at [merite@youth.lu](mailto:merite@youth.lu) 😊

### National Office Team 2019-2020

For this school year, there are some changes at the National Office: Astrid de Leeuw has been on maternity leave since July 2019 and will be back in summer 2020. Jil Baustert will be the contact person for the Luxembourgish schools and organisations. She is also responsible for communications,

for the “Prix du Mérite,” and for all trainings in Luxembourgish. Jil also handles the registrations for all Gold Residential Projects and for the National Expedition. Her office days are from Monday to Wednesday.

Christine Gouverneur remains your contact person for all international and private schools. She is also in charge of billing and accounting, and relations with the Mérite Jeunesse board, the Ministry of Education, and the IAF. Her office days are from Tuesday to Friday.

Since 2019, Ben Bemtgen offers to support Award units with the Adventurous Journey section. Please remember to register every Adventurous Journey with the national office. Three weeks before the start of your planned AJ, please complete the (new!) registration form and send it to Ben, as well as to the Mérite office. Ben is also the contact person for Award Leaders who would like some help with the planning and organisation of their Adventurous Journey; he can give you guidance for the organisation and can help to find a suitable route. He can also hold the preparation workshops at your school/organisation and accompany your first expedition, if you wish so.



### Équipe 2019-2020



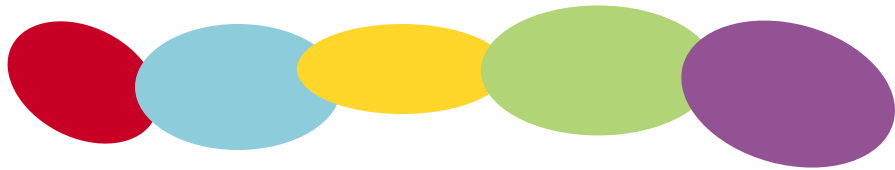
Responsable  
Qualité et Développement  
**Christine Gouverneur**



Administration et  
Communication  
**Jil Baustert**



Erlebnispädagoge  
Freelance pour le volet expédition  
**Ben Bemtgen**



## Prix du Mérite 2019

The 1<sup>st</sup> of December is approaching fast, and so is the deadline for the candidatures of the Prix du Mérite.

Do you know a group of youngsters aged between 14-24 years who recently completed a project together? It can be a cultural project, sports, or a social engagement. Please submit your project before 1<sup>st</sup> December 2019 for the "Prix du Mérite." You can find the rules and the inscription forms on our website.



## Deadline Record Books

Dear Award Leaders,

The next Award Ceremony is already on 12<sup>th</sup> March 2020! As this is quite early in the year, we would invite you to keep the deadline for the record books in mind: Please make sure to deliver the completed record books for all of your Award candidates by **20th January** to the National Office. Thank you for your understanding!

## Award Ceremony 2020

Talking about the Award Ceremony ... we would be delighted if you could recommend to us some Award candidates who would like to present the ceremony, or who would like to present or perform their Award activities on 12<sup>th</sup> March, 2020. Participants from our new and old Award Units are invited to contribute!

Not only on stage, but also for the catering we would very much appreciate your help. Please contact us if you can put together 5 to 10 youngsters who would like to support our catering company on the evening of 12<sup>th</sup> March, 2020. The minimum age to help with catering is 16 years.



Your Award participants are passionate singers, musicians, magicians, acrobats or even stand-up comedians.



They are open, outgoing, and perhaps a bit nervous about performing on stage. And, above all: do they feel like it?

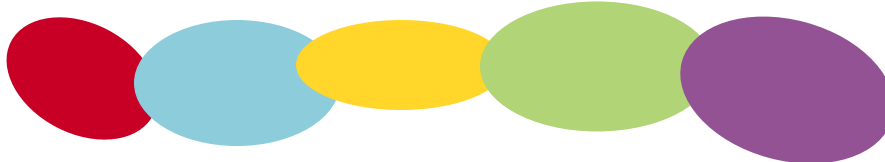
If (some of) your Award participants fit this description, they would be the perfect candidate to help us making the Award ceremony an even more remarkable evening! Please contact the National Office.

## Adventurous Journey

19.10.-20.10-2019

Despite the (really) bad weather conditions on the weekend of 19<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> October, two Award Units successfully completed their Adventurous Journeys. We would like to say congratulations to everybody who journeyed under these tough conditions: You can be

Proud to be



proud of yourselves! It is definitely not easy to achieve a successful AJ in such weather conditions. Congratulations!

Here are some impressions from the Athénée de Luxembourg's Adventurous Journey (at bronze level):



Please find more pictures and a complete report at <https://spark.adobe.com/page/9wioI9fUAJ8hK/>

## Award Leader Training 19<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> October

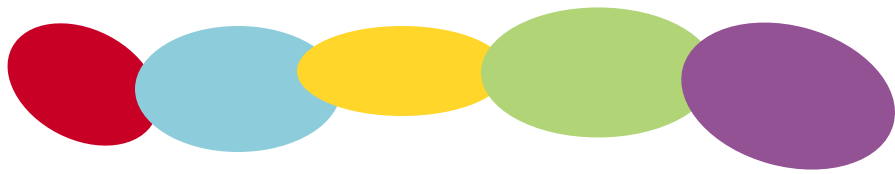
We are delighted to welcome 14 new Award Leaders to the Mérite Jeunesse! Our Luxembourgish Award Leader Training took place the weekend of October 19<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup>.



Our next Award Leader training will be in English, at the Forum Campus Geesseknäppchen on November 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>, 2019. Whether you would like to become a new Award Leader, or whether your Award Leader training dates back a few years and you would like a “refresher”: Please find the registration forms on our website and sign up for the English Award Leader training on 23<sup>rd</sup>-24<sup>th</sup> November.

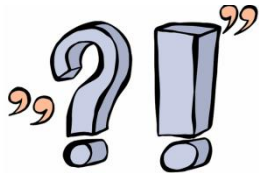
## New Registration Forms

During the summer vacation the National Office has been very busy working on new and more detailed inscription forms. The new forms are already online and we would invite you to use them from now on. The most notable change is that from now on, both parents/legal representatives have to sign, and that the forms for the Adventurous Journey and the Gold Residential Project now ask you for information that is more detailed.



## Statistics 2019

Once a year we ask you to send in your Award participants' data. This year, please send us the updated participant data for your Award unit by **15<sup>th</sup> November**. You can send the completed excel file directly to [christine.gouverneur@youth.lu](mailto:christine.gouverneur@youth.lu)



## Using the logos

Seems a bit exaggerated, but we need to be sure that both logos, the one of the Mérite Jeunesse Luxembourg as well as the one of the Duke of Edinburgh's International Award, are always used in the correct way. Please remember to use both logos **together** at any time!☺

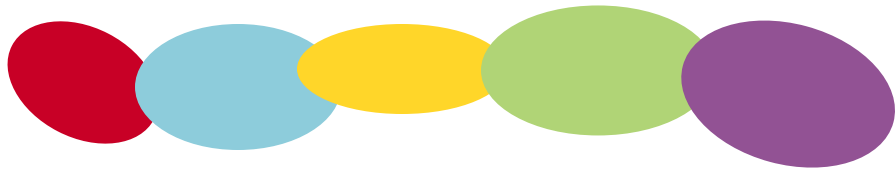
## AGENDA 2019/2020

### Important Dates for the Award Leaders

15. November 2019	Statistics/participant data to be submitted
23.-24. November 2019	Award Leader Training in English
14. December 2019	Adventurous Journey Leader Training in Luxembourgish (theoretical module – Lycée Aline Mayrisch)
20. January 2020	Deadline Record Books
25. January 2020	Adventurous Journey Leader Training in Luxembourgish (practical module – Scoutschalet Leudelange)
12. March 2020	Award Ceremony 2020
21.-22. March 2020	Adventurous Journey Leader Training in English (theoretical and practical modules)

### Important dates for the participants

29. February 2020	Preparation Workshop Adventurous Journey (one of two dates)
12. March 2020	Award Ceremony 2020



28. March 2020	Preparation Workshop Adventurous Journey (one of two dates)
24.-26. April 2020	Preparation Hike for the National Expedition
15.-17. May 2020	Final Hike National Expedition

We regularly update this agenda. Please consult the agenda on our website for the latest information: <http://merite.jeunesse.lu/agenda>

To stay informed and aware of our Award Leaders' needs is important for us. This is why the Mérite Jeunesse is considering offering a continuous training module to all Award Leaders. Would you be interested in such training? Please share your thoughts with us and complete this very brief survey: <https://de.surveymonkey.com/r/WS7G9LN> Thank you!

## An Update from the Foundation to the Award Leaders of Mérite Jeunesse Luxembourg

The Duke of Edinburgh's International Award Foundation (IAF) recently carried out a licence review visit of the Mérite Jeunesse. The Mérite Jeunesse Luxembourg holds a full licence with the IAF along with 66 other countries around the world, who are known as National Award Operators (NAOs).

The licence review team attended the Award Leaders evening on 2<sup>nd</sup> October. It was fantastic to meet many of you in person and hear your experiences of delivering the Award in Luxembourg. On behalf of the Foundation we would like to say a huge **thank you** to you all for the amazing work you are doing to enable young people to participate in the Award.

In July the IAF gathered representatives from all NAOs in the Europe, Mediterranean and Arab States Region, including Luxembourg, for the annual regional conference. Part of the conference programme was to present some of the exciting updates currently being developed by the IAF. We would like to share some of those with you here.

To give you an overview of the global reach of the Award and the network of Award operators that you and your participants are a part of. Our 2018 annual statistics tell us there are over **1 million** young people currently taking part in the Award worldwide. The support of nearly **200,000** Award Leaders like you, enabled over **300,000** young people all over the world to achieve their Award last year. So again, **thank you** for all your efforts.

The IAF is currently undertaking a huge project to review, update and create key policies to both govern our own operations and the operations of our NAOs. The development of these policies will help both the IAF at an international level and the NAOs at national level to know how to operate appropriately when delivering the Award, no matter of their capacity. This will further guarantee the standardisation of the Award around the world, ensuring that a young person in Luxembourg is doing the same programme as a young person in Nepal. To date, there are 20 key policies that we ask all NAOs to comply with:

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| 1. Award authorisation guidance / policy   | 10. Reporting requirements / guidelines                              |
| 2. Award Centre Policy   | 11. Reserves policy  |
| 3. Award Community (Online Learning Hub (OLH)) or relevant NAO online guidance materials               | 12. Child Protection and Safeguarding policy                         |
| 4. Insurance guidance and requirements   | 13. Serious incident reporting policy                                |
| 5. International Handbook for Award Leaders (7th edition) / or approved NAO translation and/or version | 14. Training requirements  |
| 6. Branding guidelines   | 15. Volunteer vetting guidance                                       |
| 7. Data and privacy policy   | 16. Adults Delivering the Award Policy                               |
| 8. Fees and Payment Policy (Including payment terms)   | 17. Online Record Book (or equivalent) training and support guidance |
| 9. Health and Safety Policy  | 18. Quality Assurance mechanisms and procedures                      |
|  | 19. Support services offered by the NAO                              |
|  | 20. Volunteer Code of Conduct  |



Another key area that the IAF are focusing on is ‘Supporting Adults in the Award’. We are looking at ways to equip you and NAOs in a way that allows Award Operators to grow the number of Award Leaders without negatively affecting their resource capabilities.

One of the main projects supporting this initiative is the implementation of a new online platform called the Award Community.

The new Award Community will have two main elements that will allow you to fully engage with relevant information from not only Mérite Jeunesse but also the wider Award Association.

- The platform will act as an engagement and communications tool for Award Leaders across Mérite Jeunesse as well as worldwide.
- The platform will contain specific tailored content to the Mérite Jeunesse, who will be in control of the content.

If you have any questions for the IAF team please contact Christine Gouverneur who will refer them on to us.