

# Labour of Love

## Volunteering for Parks 2011 seminar

- Workshop report
- Goup 1: Benefits for the park from volunteering
- Chair Jouko Högmander, Finland,
- Reporter Bettina Soethe, Germany
- Members of group: Lidia Krinova Russia, Airi Kallunki Finland, Hannamaria Potila Finland, Chas Goemans Iceland,

# Benefits for the park

- Five positive points
- Five critical issues
- Five practical actions to contribute

# Positive points

- Reputation of the park is increasing
- Supplementary labour force
- Awareness raising
- Improving connections with local people
- New skills for the staff

# Critical issues

- Binding resources from the park
- The park is having some responsibilities and has to take insurance
- Difficulties in arranging hosting and logistics
- How to motivate people to come
- Finding the right kind of people
- Perception that "they are taking our jobs"

# Practical actions to contribute and promote voluntary work in parks

- Use of social media, contacts with stakeholders etc in finding and motivating volunteers
- Training the park staff in communication skills, in motivating volunteers and in their expectations
- Volunteer after-work
- Support letter, certification or other recording of the learning
- International and domestic networking
- Developing ways for funding travels and meals – sponsorship, “paying guests” etc
- Measuring and reporting the amount of work done
- Voluntary management database

# **Labour of Love-**

## **International Volunteering Seminar 2011**

### **Workshop report**

#### **Work Group 2: Benefits for the volunteer**

Chair: Anita Prosser

Reporter: Arthur Pedersen

Members: Sari Jääskeläinen Finland, Irma Tikkanen Finland, Bjarni Serup Denmark, Mona Kyndi Denmark, Tanja Holmberg Denmark, Lasse Loven Finland, Arne Andersson Sweden, Anneli Leivo Finland, Tuomas Uola Finland

#### **1. Define 5 positive and beneficiary points upon the item in concern**

- New contacts and friendships
- Health and satisfaction
- Learning new skills and thinks
- Doing something meaningful
- Using skills above in new tasks
- Using new skills which not used in normal life
- Having fun
- Meet new kinds of people
- Self confidence and self-esteem increased
- Inspirations
- Appreciation and understanding nature
- Make it different

#### **2. Indentify 5 issues or critical points on the other side of the coin**

- Issues and barriers that stop people to volunteer
- Feeling manipulated
- Too difficult
- Lag of knowledge where to go and how to get there
- Not time enough, perception
- Too big commitment
- Barriers from the organisation
- No one needs me
- Stepping on toes of unions, taking somebody's job away
- Legal restrictions

- Own costs too high
- What really is the benefit
- Lack of insurance
- Lack of tradition for volunteering in society
- Not enough support from park no appreciation
- Inaccessability
- Language and cultural barrier
- Lack of innovations how to do the volunteering
- Lacking model for virtual volunteering

**3. Give 5 practical actions which may contribute or promote your WS case**

- Telling the good stories
- Awarding the volunteers on regular
- Sell the experiences
- Commitments for the strategic partnerships between organisations

# **Labour of Love – Volunteering for Parks 2011**

## **Report workshop group 3:**

### **How to promote international volunteering**

Chair, reporter: Lena Malmström (SE)

Members: Francesca Giannetti (IT), Thomas Hansson (SE), Pertti Itkonen (FI),  
Liisa Kylliäinen (FI), Carina Wennström (FI)

#### **A. Five positive points/benefits of promoting international volunteering:**

1. Exchange opportunities: skills, best practise, culture, environmental education, etc. etc. Benefits for the individual, for protected areas, society...
2. Common understanding of natural values (across national borders)
3. International contacts, networking
4. PR
5. Funding opportunities



## **B. Identify 5 negative aspects of promoting international volunteering**

1. Resources
2. Attitude barriers (receiving party sometimes negative due to eg. language, insurance issues, etc.)
3. Language barriers
4. Communication, information and marketing can be more difficult
5. Different setups needed for different people (short/long programmes, etc)

## **C. Five actions which may contribute to or promote international volunteering**

1. **National frameworks.** Different countries need different solutions. A volunteering programme can be coordinated in many ways, by a governmental agency, NGO's, joint programmes, etc.
2. **Volunteering needs to be integrated into the protected area's yearly work plan.**
3. **Communication and cooperation – eg.**
  1. Between institutions
  2. On different levels
  3. Create media events
  4. Use experienced volunteers as mentors
4. **Translate and share guidelines and toolboxes**
5. **Teach Estonian! meaning: challenges can be turned into assets!**

Solve problems, make them work for you! E.g. if you have a foreign volunteer who learns to speak Estonian, you instantly get attention, from media etc. In this case, volunteering camps may be combined with language courses (collaborate with a course provider).

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## Volunteering for Parks 2011 seminar

- Workshop report
- Goup 4: **How to lead the volunteering activity**
- Chair Jere Rauhala, Finland,
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# Positive points

- + Learning and improving people skills
  - + Networking
  - + Raise quality of project
  - + Getting acceptance by community
  - + Economic benefits

# Critical issues

- - Costs money and time
- Competition with private entrepreneurs
- Wrong reasons, use vs. collaborate
- Responsibility being host especially long term
- Impatience

# Practical actions to contribute and promote voluntary work in parks

- \* Involve volunteers in operative planning
- \* Communication
- \* High quality information
- \* Invite more partners
- \* Tell the world