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IMPACT

Together for a better community!

“Campsite and outhouse construction in Retezat National Park” ecological project

IMPACT Evolution

Uricani, Romania

June, 23rd-26th 2005

Project Summary

IMPACT members sought to bring to an end the environmental degradation from the proximity of Cabana Rusu and to better serve the guests of the Retezat National Park by building a “Leave No Trace” campsite and outhouse facility. This idea was based on the 7 Environmental principles promoted by Leave No Trace Inc., USA (www.lnt.org). The core philosophy of each principle is based on respect for nature by using good judgment and awareness of one’s actions while partaking in outdoors activities. The young participants of IMPACT studied these principles and decided to put them in practice.

Problem Statement / Justification

After a case study carried out by the IMPACT members and several visits in the area, we realized there were many tourists interested in this area, which represents an access point to Retezat National Park. Although the area offers many opportunities for rock climbing, caving, camping and hiking, a campsite or a special place for depositing the trash was never intended to be arranged. That is why we thought to be the ones to take the initiative.

Objectives

- to educate the tourists and nature lovers in the spirit of environment protection.
- to arrange a campsite that would respect a set of principles meant to diminish the negative effects on the environment;

Partners & Sponsors

- Primăria Uricani •S.C. Comexim R Lupeni •Telelocnet Iran
- Sc.BBS.net.SRL •Amicii Uricani •S.C.Visul Imaginației Vulcan
- Deddy Farm Lupeni •S.C. Maribel Procom SRL Uricani
- Braia Uricani •Timisan Uricani •S.C. Ricardo SRL Uricani
- Digital Electronic Petroșani •Todea Cornelut Uricani

Activities

- We cleaned the entire area, filling up one truck load of garbage;
- We built 4 campsites and designated each one of them;
- We built an ecological “deluxe” outhouse filled with environmentally friendly quotes and park information;
- We created a water spout to ease the filling up of water bottles;
- We created an information bulletin board at the entrance of the campsite. The bulletin board contains all 7 “Leave No Trace” principles and rules for using the camp;
- To limit environmental degradation, we built a table and 4 benches;
- To avoid wildlife having access to food, we built a pulley system to hang food 30ft. above the ground.

Evaluation

Twenty nine IMPACT members and leaders from Uricani, Petrosani and Lupeni took part in this project. There were four days of fun and hard work. Each of us had a role. We made an action plan, we were divided in teams and we accomplished the tasks. We learned something from most of the activities, as it was something new for many of us. Our project requested an important fundraising campaign, which was successful due to the support we received from the community and the validity of the project. We also benefited from a strong local mass-media interest for the project. This helped us send the message of our project to the community. (www.gazetavaiiului.ro, archive, no 773)

Budget

- 24 million lei (about \$800)- raised and used for buying wood, tools, food products
- tools and equipment –New Horizons Foundation

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