

More and more people are getting involved



Mérite Jeunesse has more participants and more Award Leaders involved in the programme than ever before. About 800 young people are participating in the program and 35 new Award Leaders have been trained since October. Moreover 3 Leaders registered for trainings in the UK and Holland. Right now Luxembourg is lucky to count 86 qualified adults to support the participants.

Visit of John May



John May, the Secretary General of the International Award, came for a visit to Luxembourg. He is based in London but travels extensively around the world on behalf of the Award. John was very satisfied on how *Mérite Jeunesse* is evolving and it has been enriching for the national office and members of the board to talk to him about the ways to improve different aspects of the Award in our country.

Award Ceremony



This year's Ceremony took place in the Forum Campus Geesseknäppchen on the 8th of March. We had the great honour to have H.R.H Prince Guillaume and his father, our founder, H.R.H Grand-Duc Jean, as well as the education minister Claude Meisch amongst us at the Award night.



The band Böf's with Gold holder Christophe Hennico, the clarinet ensemble from Dudelange with Gold holder Nathalie Schmitz and Janina Garboutcheva, silver participant, singing and playing the guitar, all guaranteed a musical delicacy.

Shayan and Shadi Monadjemi, Dana Watgen and Catherine Richard talked about the activities they had chosen for their Bronze Award. Nora Bohler, Lilian Cohaus and Yannick Noesen reported the experiences they made while accomplishing their Gold level.



Students of the *Lycée du Nord* were honoured with the "Prix du Mérite". The young people involved in the project wrote and set up a musical called "IPHI".

Preleminary training



For the first time preliminary trainings were organised by the national office. Twice on a Saturday at the Forum, youngsters were introduced to orientation, safety and the necessary equipment to go on an expedition twice on a Saturday at the Forum. They are now well prepared to undertake their first expedition in the upcoming months.

Meeting Award Leaders

In March 18 Award Leaders met the staff of the national office to talk about problems and possible solutions on the topic how to support and motivate participants who have a difficult social and school background.

After exchanging experiences and talking about the problems in the concerned units, various solutions have been suggested. For example, in future *Mérite Jeunesse* will consider implementing a certificate for these youngsters for every section they will have accomplished.

New promotional material



Mérite Jeunesse got new flyers and posters designed by Indira Idrizovic. They are available in English, Luxembourgish and French. If you need promotional material, you can order them any time at the national office.

Award Leader Training



After the well-attended Award Leader Training in October, a second one took place at the Forum at the end of March. 11 adults received a Certificate. Altogether 35 new Award Leaders became active this school year.

Agenda

22.04	Visit of H.R.H. Prince Guillaume Finalist of the <i>prix du mérite</i> Project "Scouts Welcome Refugees" <i>Les peaux rouges</i> in Diddeleng
28.04-30.04	Practice journey (national)
17.05	Visit H.R.H. of Prince Guillaume Finalist of the <i>prix du mérite</i> "Projet intergénérationnel" Lycée Robert Schumann
19.05-21.05	Qualifying journey (national)