

ACTION PASS



BECOME AN AMBASSADOR FOR THE WIENERWALD BIOSPHERE RESERVE!

In the Wienerwald forest biosphere reserve we focus on protecting and actively experiencing nature. As an ambassador for the biosphere reserve, you're not only aware of the rules that help you and others explore the reserve safely, but you also know about the most important functions of a forest ecosystem and its animal residents. You have experienced the forest and meadows as a habitat for plants and animals.

SHORT INFO

The biosphere reserve is divided into three zones. Different rules apply to them and they all fulfill different functions: the core zone, the buffer zone and the transition zone.

CORE ZONE (5%)

Wassergespreng lies next to the core zone of the biosphere reserve. In this zone, natural processes are allowed to run their course undisturbed.



Wild animals have an important sanctuary here. Dead trees are not felled but left in the forest to provide a habitat for insects and mushrooms. Therefore, it is very important to stay on the marked hiking paths in this area. It is not allowed to collect mushrooms and berries, to camp, or light a fire.

BUFFER ZONE (19%)

The buffer zones are natural areas that are managed in some way. These include meadows that are regularly mown, vineyards, pastures and water bodies.

They too are important ecosystems that have become rare in Austria. Moreover, they are a buffer between the core zone and the more intensively managed transition zone.

TRANSITION ZONE (76%)

The remaining area of the biosphere reserve is the transition zone. Here the focus is on marketing regional products (for example, fruits and vegetables) and offering environment friendly freetime activities.



TRY IT OUT!

EXPERIENCING NATURE

Brownies/ Cubs/ Guides/ Scouts: all 4 tasks
Explorers/ Rangers/ Rover Scouts: 2 tasks



I lie down on the forest floor or in a meadow and look at nature from the ant's view. I can describe what I experienced.



I walk barefoot over grass, the forest floor, stones and through a creek.



I can name three different animals that eat worms and insects.



I create an obstacle course for the other scouts/ guides where they can explore the forest with all their senses (for example, smelling leaves, walking over leaves while blindfolded...).



Explorers/ Rangers/ Rover Scouts Special:



I catch several different insects in a pitfall trap (A pitfall trap is a clean jar that is buried in the ground so that the lip is flush with the soil. Leave it out for a few hours!). I observe them and then set them free again.



On a hike, I take pictures of two meadows with different species of flowers and grass. I find out and describe how the soils of these meadows differ (colour, texture, moisture...).



I build a nest box for bats or birds. I know which species can use my nest box and where it should be put up.



TRY IT OUT!

PROTECTING NATURE

Brownies/ Cubs/ Guides/ Scouts: all 4 tasks

Explorers/ Rangers/ Rover Scouts: 2 tasks

 I know how waste is separated at Wassergspreng Scout Centre and put this knowledge into practice on the camp.

 I know why it is important to stay on the paths when hiking in the biosphere reserve and I can explain it to other scouts/ guides.

 I know the signs in the biosphere reserve and I know what is allowed in the core zone and what is not.

 I walk 3.000 steps through the forest and pick up three items that do not belong there.



Explorers/ Rangers/ Rover Scouts Special:



I discuss the practical and ecological advantages and disadvantages of different fuels for cooking (gas, firewood...) with my troupe - or a similar ecological topic.



I create a quiz about the biosphere reserve and play it with your troupe.



I actively participate in a nature conservation project in the biosphere reserve. (Contact the Scout Centre for more information!)



DID YOU FULFILL ALL THE TASKS?

Congratulations! You are now an expert on the Wienerwald biosphere reserve and have earned the badge “Ambassador for the Biosphere Reserve”!



CONTENT AND LAYOUT
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