

Frequently asked questions - english

What is 'wilderness for children'?

The 'Wilderness for children' project is organized by the Biological Station Östliches Ruhrgebiet and aims to give as many children as possible the chance to experience nature in the middle of the city. Since 2010, six green spaces in Bochum and two in Herne have been set up as so-called nature experience areas in the vicinity of residential neighbourhoods. These areas are around 1-2 hectares in size and feature jungle-like bushes with trails, small clearings for building huts, slides, climbing trees, etc. Children can play, romp, muddle and experience nature freely and independently around the clock on these wilderness areas.

We also regularly offer events on the areas, e.g. Wildnistreffs (get-togethers), family events, wilderness weeks during the holidays and impulse events for KiTas and schools.

How much does 'wilderness for children' cost?

Playing on the wilderness areas is free of charge, as is taking part in events. This is possible because 'Wilderness for children' has received various grants.

When is the 'wilderness for children' open?

The wilderness areas are open around the clock for free play and are freely accessible. Dates for events can be found on our website www.wildnis-fuer-kinder.de.

Where are the 'wilderness for children' areas?

The exact locations of the wilderness areas and directions can be found on our website www.wildnis-fuer-kinder.de.

Which children are allowed to play here?

All children are welcome at 'Wilderness for Children'. We are particularly happy when children from the immediate neighbourhood of the areas can reach them independently and play freely here. Experience has shown that children between the ages of 5 and 12 find the wilderness areas particularly exciting.



What should the children bring with them?

- sturdy, long clothing and shoes
- weather protection (sun/rain)
- spare socks (change of clothes if necessary)
- food and drink (unsweetened, otherwise insects will be attracted)

What are Wildnistreffs?

Free weekly wilderness get-togethers now take place in all areas. They are open to all children. You are welcome to come along as a chaperone and also bring along siblings. At the Wildnistreffs, the children are supported by environmental/wilderness educators as they play and experience nature. However, the duty of supervision always remains with the legal guardians. You can find the dates for the Wildnistreffs and other events on our website www.wildnis-fuer-kinder.de.

What qualifications do the environmental and wilderness educators have?

Our environmental and wilderness educators have successfully completed in-depth training in fields such as biology, wilderness education and experiential education. They also all have a clean criminal record and have successfully completed a current first aid course.

Is it possible to come with a group?

Depending on capacity, we are also happy to offer individually arranged impulse. Further details can be found on our website (www.wildnis-fuer-kinder.de). If you are interested, simply give us a call (0 23 23/229 64 10) or send us an email (info@biostation-ruhr-ost.de).

Why is wilderness important for children?

Especially in urban areas, natural areas have become rare. However, spending time in the fresh air and in nature is very important for healthy child development: by experiencing nature, children are strengthened both in their motor skills and in their psychological development. In addition, their social skills are promoted when playing with other children. Many children can also make friends here. On the wilderness areas, they can let off steam, relax and recharge their batteries.

Experiencing nature is also the best nature conservation work in the urban area. Connectedness and love of nature are key factors for later environmental management. Extensive contact with nature in childhood is formative in this respect. They allow an unconscious and lasting appreciation to develop in passing.

