



Bund Deutscher PfadfinderInnen (BDP)

German Youth Scout Association

Landesverband BDP Baden Württemberg

Regional Association BDP Baden-Württemberg

Brief history

The *BDP* (English: *German Youth Scout Association* / German: *Bund Deutscher Pfadfinder*) was founded in 1948 as a traditional, non-denominational and non-political youth scout association. Under the influence of the student movement in the late 1960s, the *BDP* started to change fundamentally. Former more authoritarian forms and contents (e.g. uniform) got increasingly questioned. Political, ecological, emancipatory issues and the peace movement became increasingly more important for the majority inside the *BDP*. This resulted in the division of the federation in 1971, as the then more traditionally oriented parts separated and founded a new own scout association.

Freed from all old customs such as uniforms, hymns and flags, the *BDP* has developed since 1971 to a progressive, democratic youth organization - with a traditional name.

In the 70s, the *BDP* fought for self-administered youth centers and adventure playgrounds. They engaged in the peace- and anti-nuclear movement as well as in the self-help and ecological movement.

Basic principles

Today the basis of our work are equal footing, mutual respect and a sustainable and responsible attitude towards nature and environment. We stand up for a free education accessible for all, for peace, social justice and the fight against poverty. In short, we are committed to a more just and more livable world.

The *BDP* is politically and religious independent and has no adult association. High appreciation of the individual, grassroots democracy and the principle of consensus rank as the utmost significance.

By fostering social values, such as tolerance, communication skills and intercultural competences we ensure a vital, productive and pleasure-having interaction within and outward the *BDP*.

Youth work in the *BDP* is therefore not a one-sided consumer offer. Children and young people are challenged to build strong relationships, which make it possible to be accepted as a person and to get involved.

They are encouraged not only to perceive their own and others' needs, but also to take them seriously in all their differences. The *BDP* encourages children, teenagers and young adults to shape this process and gives them the space, time and attention. So that everyone can find his OR her path in our society.

This work takes mainly place in the organization of youth camps, mobile youth camps, work camps and international encounters. In addition, the *BDP* offers a variety of seminars and training courses (<http://www.jugendseminare.org/>).

Youth Camps

As part of the *AK – ökologische Kinder- und Jugendfreizeiten* (working group - ecological children and youth camps) we organize about 60 camps every year throughout Europe. Following the motto of the youth movement: "*youth leads youth*" our volunteer leaders are organizing the camps independently before and lead them on their own responsibility. During their work they are trained and supported by experienced pedagogues.

The character of our youth camps deliberately mismatch any packaged holiday. Our small groups traveling on their own and the participants take part in the decision-making. Decisions are made on a grassroots democratic form as well as the tasks are shared responsibilities. Because of ecological reasons we almost never fly to our destinations, but go by bus and train. We travel by foot and kayak or use bicycles and public transportation.

Education

In addition to the wide and divers offer of seminars and training for our volunteer youth leaders, the *BDP* offers an annual seminar program with a range of topics from music and theater to rhetoric and educational seminars or environmental and political development workshops. It's a place for everything which leads to new interesting ideas, refreshing prospects and promises fun. Whether this process needs a map and compass to explore the nature, learn to cook for large groups or allows to question critically our own consumption habits, the *BDP* tries to be an open diverse platform.

Cooperation

The regional association *BDP Baden-Württemberg* cooperates at various points with other associations such as the *NAJU* or *BUNDjugend*. The *BDP* is a member of the *Landesjugendring* (LJR) and the *Reisenetzwerk* (travel network), the German professional association for youth travel. With our Federal Association we are part of the *Bundesjugendring* (BJR).

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