



TAIGA RESCUE NETWORK

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Press Release - For immediate use

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Youth Meet for Forests

Empowerment, Networking, Strategy Building, Understanding

The Taiga Rescue Network, together with several Scandinavian environmental youth organizations, is organizing the **Scandinavian Youth Empowerment and Forest Campaign Strategy Week** in Arrenjarka, northern Sweden, the week of August 22 through 28, 2005.

This initiative will enable youths active in forest sustainability issues in Scandinavia, the Baltic countries and European Russia, to meet and have joint discussions and develop skills in various empowerment and campaign strategy workshops. The goal is to share skills and build mutual understanding of each other's work in neighbouring countries, while strengthening networks between the various youth organizations in the northern European community.

The Strategy Week will offer workshops and training on a variety of topics important to youth activism in forest campaigning and protection issues. Youth from countries such as Sweden, Finland, Norway, Germany, Estonia and Russia will meet and learn from highly experienced local and international trainers. The camp will also include a variety of outdoor activities such as hiking and climbing near recently protected old growth forest at the doorstep of the Lapponia World Heritage site.

This initiative has been prompted due to an identified lack of cross-boarder communication and networking between youth forest conservation groups in northern Europe. The Strategy Week not only aims to build the skills of Scandinavian youth, but also to foster a stronger youth movement in northern Europe and northwestern Russia.

The Scandinavian Youth Empowerment and Forest Campaign Strategy Week is funded by the Nordic Council of Ministers, The Barents Regional Youth Programme 2005 and the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency. It has been developed in collaboration with Nature and Youth, Sweden, Nature and Youth, Norway, Finnish Nature League, Finland.

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