

Why Riding for Children in the Wilderness is so Meaningful?

Children in the Wilderness (CITW) is a non-profit organisation, which aims to facilitate sustainable conservation through leadership development and education of rural children in Africa.

By exposing children to their natural heritage, CITW creates a network of learning sanctuaries that uplifts and cares for our children and conserves our planet. In this way, we inspire the children to care for the environment so that they can become the custodians of these areas in the future. Children in the Wilderness started operating in Botswana in 2001 and has since expanded to Namibia, Malawi, Rwanda, South Africa, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

During the course of the year, the CITW ground team operates Eco-Clubs in the various communities with which we work. The Eco-Clubs, which take place at the rural schools, follow a structured curriculum and give all learners who are interested in the environment a chance to meet, learn, discuss and expand their knowledge of environmental issues. We are able to reach more children in the communities and on a more regular basis. Children participating on the CITW annual camps are selected from Eco-Clubs.

Our Eco-Mentor Training develops local community members by upgrading skills, increasing environmental understanding and enabling them to better implement school and village environmental projects and initiatives. This project assists in addressing the critical teaching skills shortage in environmental education in Southern Africa. Once trained, Eco-Mentors are able to host Eco-Clubs in the local village schools and assist the Eco-Club members in implementing environmental projects in their village.

Our annual camp programme hosts rural children on a three-night environmental and life skills educational programme in Wilderness Safaris and/or partner camps where we teach children the importance of conservation and strive to instil a passion for the environment. The programme covers topics such as wildlife, conservation, health, HIV/AIDS awareness, nutrition, life skills, geography, geology, arts, crafts and theatre. Our Youth Environmental Stewardship (YES) Programme focuses on children with commitment and potential who have been identified on annual camps and in Eco-Clubs as showing a particular interest in conservation.

www.childreninthewilderness.com

All funds raised through this event will go directly to the operating costs of the Children in the Wilderness programme. Naturally, any additional donations are welcome, and we encourage riders to set up their own GivenGain page to assist them with their fundraising efforts. Just visit our Children in the Wilderness GivenGain page <https://www.givengain.com/c/childreninthewilderness/> and click on the Start Fundraising button to begin your fundraising campaign!