

Dutch Nivon Friends of Nature celebrates its 95th anniversary with a festival in June 2019

Next year Nivon Friends of Nature NL will celebrate its formation exactly 95 years ago. Starting half a century ago Nivon has organized an annual festival: PIKA (= Pinksterkamp) during the weekend of Pentecost. Next year it will be a jubilee event that takes place from Friday the 7th of June till Monday the 10th. The Nivon community meets at the NIVON-campsite 'Het Hallse Hull' in Eerbeek, at the wooded area of the province of Gelderland.



Hundreds of members and their families have visited this unique event. Four days long young and old can enjoy music, dance, creative workshops, lectures, performances, sports and games. From generation to generation the PIKA-festival has been a real tradition. Enthusiastic volunteers join forces to prepare and execute all activities.

What makes it so unique?

At a reasonable rate visitors can camp and join all of the activities. Excluding meals and drinks, it's all inclusive.

Interesting speakers give lectures about current topics: How to act in accordance with the worldwide climate agreement? How to change society and maintain international solidarity?

There are special activities for children, and parents can join them for twice the fun at the puppet theatre. Young adults can compete for the first prize – an apple cake – during the volleyball tournament.

Men and women can make mosaic work or abstract paintings. In the evenings everyone comes together in the main festival tent for dancing to upbeat music of cover bands and jazz ensembles. Talented comedians and singer-songwriters perform on stage.

There is a silent disco, campfire stories, forest walks with a guide, and more. It is a great festival, full of leisure and adventure, nature experiences and culture. A lovely spot for meeting, diversion, educating and exploring.

Focus on the younger generation

The Central Board of Nivon is pleased to invite a select group of representatives of the international Friends of Nature. Especially members of the IYNF are invited to become part of the programme. Our newly founded section NivonYoung would be happy to collaborate with international IYNF members. Of course, regular NFI members are also welcome to participate in organizing a debate or a presentation, e.g..

It is the run-up to our centenary

The 95th anniversary of Nivon will be the prelude to a larger event. We will emphasize the importance of the values in which we believe: Honesty, Durability, Social and Tolerant behaviour. Nivon pursues a society in solidarity.

In 2024 Nivon hopes to celebrate its centenary. In the same year the Dutch Friends of Nature commemorate that they joined the NFI exactly hundred years ago. The 2019 PIKA-festival is an intermediate step to this jubilee. Because: the Central Nivon Board has the intention to setup the Pentecost event 2024 as a larger international meeting.





What is Nivon?

Nivon = Netherlands Institute of People's Development (*VolksOntwikkeling*) and the work of Friends of Nature.

Nivon Natuurvrienden is an association where members are in charge. After years of decreased membership Nivon is growing again: it counts 18.500 members – 2.000 more than at the end of 2017...



There is a small central office where the salaried employees perform a number of essential tasks. The Central Board not only manages, but also does the executive work, on an unpaid basis. Nivon contains 25 local and regional sections where members and guests can join many activities. For them the sections are a center of nature and cultural activities. Nivon volunteers maintain thirteen long distance walking trails, from the north of the Netherlands to the south, from the seacoast to the German border. Volunteers manage our thirteen Friends of Nature houses and seven nature camping sites.

Working groups organize holiday camps in the Netherlands and abroad for children, students and families; they organize sailing, tracking and mountaineering. There is a History Group, there are Senior 'indulgence & relaxation'-weeks, courses for women, a choral and music company.

It may be said: Nivon is a diamond with many glittering facets!



More information desired?

See the website: www.nivon.nl

Call Han Verschuur, our Board member Internationalization: +49 176 60 407 113 (mobile)

E-mail: han.verschuur@online.de

Or call Henk Schaaf, our national chairman: +31 6 50 123 769

E-mail: hschaaf@nivon.nl