HERITAGE: A LIFELONG UNDERTAKING YOUR ENERGY AND TALENTS FOR HERITAGE PROTECTION

At home, through participation in the life of local sites: cleaning, clearing of undergrowth, recycling, restoration projects... volunteers are always welcome.

Through local or national proactive action: organization of discovery and awareness raising events such as rallies or organized visits, shows, exhibitions, peak improvement, kind raising and organized events open upon special conferences, (like above), all in collaboration with the persons in charge of the sites.

Through contacts with local or national authorities to draw their attention to an issue or to be informed about their activities.

By being a responsible tourist: respecting the sites and respecting the local cultures and communities. Travel is an excellent way to discover other peoples and cultures, to exchange ideas and to establish youth networks.

By participating in international World Heritage youth fora, regularly organized by UNESCO, which provide a rich opportunity for exchange and formulation of action projects.

Through training and workshops offered by UNESCO and its partners (organizers, teams, associations, youth NGOs, clubs, etc.)

Through associating schools with UNESCO’s World Heritage Education Project.

And more, and more... young people are never short of ideas!
WHY TAKE AN INTEREST IN WORLD HERITAGE?

Heritage is what we have received from our ancestors. Our duty is to preserve it for future generations. Our identity is the result of our past and our environment. In the same way as we offset the genetic traits of our parents, we are also made up of “genes” of our cultural and natural environment. If we do not know where we come from, it is difficult to know where we are going. The loss of this cultural or natural heritage would be like losing the essence of the past and the ignorance of the heritage means to lose our bearings.

Certain sites, witnesses to the past, have had an impact on history; others have been fashioned by it. These sites are not external threats in a real danger; many are already lost. The reasons are numerous: they are called ignorance, pollution, war, uncontrolled urbanism, poverty, irresponsibility and abusive tourism, to mention but a few.

Many sites have been saved from disappearing or reversible damage through international cooperation. Knowledge and recognition of the value of such sites are the best means to avoid similar measures.

Intangible heritage is a particularly fragile type of heritage. Like cultural and natural heritage, it forgets our identity. What we are as a part of our daily life has music, culinary arts, knowledge, traditions, etc. Inheritance, it forges our identity. Indeed, what is more part of our daily life than music, smells history and perceives colours, hears another occurrence in the world. A stronger union perceives future.