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Holiday opportunities for young Swiss abroad

The Foundation for Young Swiss Abroad

Under the umbrella of the Organisation of the Swiss Abroad or OSA (in German ASO - Auslandschweizerorganisation), the Foundation for young Swiss Abroad provides vacation opportunities for young Swiss people overseas. The Foundation for Young Swiss Abroad (FYSA):

- ◇ is a benevolent organisation recognised by ZEWO (the Swiss institution for monitoring fundraising organisations), whose mission is to offer young Swiss Abroad the possibility to enjoy a vacation in their home country, irrespective of their means, and the opportunity to strengthen their ties with Switzerland
- ◇ is an institution which brings together Swiss children from the five continents to forge new friendships and ties. In doing so, it promotes understanding and solidarity across cultural and linguistic borders
- ◇ helps young Swiss Abroad living in disaster regions or war zones.

Address

Foundation for Young Swiss Abroad
Alpenstrasse 26 CH 3006 Bern, Switzerland.

- ◇ Tel. +41 (0)31 356 61 16
- ◇ Fax +41 (0)31356 61 01
- ◇ E-mail: sjas@aso.ch

Camps and offers

FYSA offers give you an opportunity to get to know Switzerland through a range of summer or winter camps. You can go sightseeing, discover mountains, towns, lakes and countryside. You get the chance to find out a wealth of information about Switzerland and its inhabitants, and stand to have a lot of fun in the process. You can go in for sports, express your creative side and get to know young people from many other countries.

Use your holidays to learn more. Through our training offers, you can learn one of the Swiss national languages, gain an insight into other training opportunities in Switzerland or explore a unique Swiss topic at a seminar, and much more.

An exciting way to get to know Swiss people is a stay in a Swiss host family. This way you can take part in genuine Swiss life.

Information about offers for Children (8 - 14 years old):

- ◇ Tel. +41 (0)31 356 61
- ◇ E-mail sjas@aso.ch

Information about offers for Young People (from 15 years old):

- ◇ Tel. +41 (0)31 356 61 00
- ◇ E-mail youth@aso.ch

Travel

Travel to the youth camps (from 14 years) is usually on an individual basis. For the children's camps (8 - 14 years) the following is applicable: On the first day, the children meet up with the instructors at 1.00pm at Zurich airport railway station and continue their journey to the camp together.

On the last day, the children and instructors travel together to Zurich Airport railway station and arrive there at 12.00 noon. Children travelling alone who cannot be met by relatives or friends of the family will be met at the airport by a member of the camp's staff, and will also be accompanied to their return flight or train on the last day of camp.

This service is available from 9.00am until 12.00 noon on the first day and from 2.00pm until 5.00pm on the last day. There will be an extra charge of CHF 50.- per service.

Accommodation

Holiday camps are housed in simple but well-equipped hostels. Depending on the house-plan, participants will share three- to eight-bed dormitories and eat together with the whole camp 'family'.

The smooth running of the holiday camp requires that children and youngsters lend a hand with daily chores, such as doing the drying-up or helping clean the rooms.

Support Team

Each holiday camp is organised and run by experienced team leaders. They have an efficient kitchen crew at their disposal and several group leaders to back them up. This team looks after the participants full-time from the minute they get up till bedtime. The instructors organise all activities and are also available during periods of individual free time. All the members of these back-up teams take time off during their own holidays to take part in the camps without much financial compensation.

Camp language

Participants come from all over the world and speak a wide range of languages (e.g. German, French, English, Spanish and Italian). The team of leaders carry out the programmes in German, French and English. So the camp language does not depend on the language spoken in the camp location.

Costs and conditions

The costs vary for different camps and we recommend that you check the ASO website for details (www.aso.ch). FYSA is committed to ensuring that no young Swiss Abroad misses out on the opportunity to visit a camp in Switzerland due to lack of funds. In justifiable cases, we therefore offer to reduce the camp fees, especially for children from far-off countries, and only once even contribute to the cost of travel.

Contributed by Adrian Blaser
Source: www.aso.ch

For a personal account on Swiss Camp by Natalie Hess, please refer to page 10.