

Zeitschrift: Swiss review : the magazine for the Swiss abroad
Herausgeber: Organisation of the Swiss Abroad
Band: 31 (2004)
Heft: 2

Rubrik: ASO-info

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Two girls reminisce

Rosie (10) lives in the UK and Marie (14) in Australia. The Foundation for Young Swiss Abroad talked to them about their memories of the winter camp in Sedrun.

Foundation for Young Swiss Abroad: *What's your fondest memory?*

Rosie: I think it was sledging with my new friends. The most far-out was the huge snowball fight with the whole group.

Marie: The wellness evening was cool. We were able to have face masks, our fingernails painted, henna tattoos and even foot massages! That was a really great evening!

Did you make progress with your snowboarding and skiing?

Marie: Yes. Before I went to the camp I used to fall over a lot when snowboarding. After the camp I went snowboarding with my Dad and he immediately noticed how much better I had become. I feel safer now, and don't fall so often.

Can you experience snow in your country?

Marie: Yes, there's snow in Australia but not where I live. It was a privilege to have snow all round the chalet in Sedrun!

Were you able to make new friends?

Marie: Yes, I got to know lots of new friends from all over the world! I still keep in touch even with friends from the 2001/2002 winter camp. Lots of my friends live in Europe and my best friend, Jasmine, lives in New York. I'm sure I will visit her one of these days!

Rosie: Yes, my best friends were Sabrina from Iran, and Isabella and Marie from Australia.



Left: Rosie (UK), right: Marie (AU).

How did you communicate with kids who spoke a different language?

Marie: Sometimes it was very difficult. I didn't talk to some kids because they couldn't understand English or French. But it was fun teaching each other a few words in each other's language.

Rosie: I used my hands or asked a camp leader to translate.

Have you attended SJAS camps before?

Marie: Yes, my first SJAS camp was in Engelberg in the winter of 2001/2002. Last year I was in Pizol and this year in Sedrun.

Rosie: I attended the 2001/2002 winter camp in Engelberg.

What are your holiday plans this year?

Marie: I hope I can attend this year's winter camp run by the Youth Service. My older brother has already attended this camp and says it's also good fun.

If you had to describe Switzerland to your school friends, what would you say?

Marie: Firstly I would tell them how beautiful the countryside is in Switzerland. I would also tell them that it's normal for most Swiss to speak at least two languages.

Here in Australia only a few people are multilingual.

Rosie: I would tell them about the snow, the landscape and of course the fantastic chocolate.

Do you feel Swiss?

Marie: No, I feel more Australian because I've lived here most of my life.

Rosie: I think more like a Brit, because I live in England.

What would you like to say to your new friends from the Sedrun winter camp?

Marie: Rosie, you're the best little girl in the world. It was such fun having you around and you always managed to make me laugh. To all the camp leaders: you're not only witty and fun, you're also great teachers. Thanks a lot! I miss you all very much.

Rosie: Many thanks for the cool vacation and the great time I had. I hope to meet you again in another camp.

Pictures and text: Ariane Roulet/SJAS

Translated from German

Mega-cool packages for young Swiss Abroad

Take advantage of the opportunity to discover Switzerland. The Organisation for the Swiss Abroad (OSA) youth arrangements successfully combine traditional camp activities with refreshingly new ideas.

Around the globe there are young people whose parents or grandparents emigrated from Switzer-

land at some point in time. Lots of them know Switzerland only from their elders' tales or from photo albums. Others often visit relatives in Switzerland or regularly attend OSA youth camps. Whatever category you fall into, the OSA cordially invites you to Switzerland.

The great thing about summer camps is the way they bring together all these young people from different countries and cul-

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And by attending the Federal Youth Session, you can gain personal experience of direct democracy in Switzerland. Stay with a friendly host family and experience day-to-day life in Switzerland.

Visit our home page at www.aso.ch (Youth) to obtain details of all the packages, or contact the following for information on the above-mentioned services and arrangements:

Organisation for the Swiss Abroad (OSA)
 Youth Service
 Alpenstr. 26
 CH - 3000 Berne 16
 Tel ++41 (0)31 356 61 00
 Fax ++41 (0)31 356 61 01
 youth@aso.ch
 www.aso.ch

Translated from German

tures. The Youth Service organises active holidays, a wide range of sports activities, project work, city tours, workshops, parties and lots more. You'll soon lose your inhibitions about trying out another language, and enjoy forging contacts with people in the same situation as yourself. A host of new friendships awaits you.

The OSA offers you a guide to Switzerland's education system. This programme is designed for young people interested in studying in Switzerland or simply taking a closer look at universities. We

provide individual advice and outline the opportunities for studying or training in Switzerland. You will get to know students who take your round their school or college. Accommodation is with a host family. The package also includes the Swiss Pass which allows you to travel round Switzerland on your own.

The two-week language course provides an opportunity for young Swiss Abroad to learn German or French. Our seminar introduces you to the latest innovations from Switzerland's high-tech sector.

Dates:

Summer camp 1 in Gänsbrunnen:	11.07. – 23.07.2004
Summer camp 2 in Gänsbrunnen:	25.07. – 06.08.2004
Switzerland mobile: The alpine world of Valais:	09.08. – 15.08.2004

82nd CONGRESS OF THE SWISS ABROAD

Winterthur, 20–22 August 2004

Technological innovation: the challenges facing Switzerland

In an age of globalisation and the information society, the cards of international competition are being reshuffled. Switzerland, which for long was among the most technologically innovative of countries, is increasingly beset by tougher competition. What strategy should the country adopt to defend its leading position and create solid foundations for future growth? The 82nd Congress of the Swiss Abroad will be addressing this topic.

What should Switzerland be doing to promote innovativeness? What is its policy on innovation? What has it achieved and what are its

objectives? What does the business sector expect from an innovation policy? What concrete measures can be implemented to promote entrepreneurial spirit and a risk culture? Experts will be discussing these and other questions at the Congress in Winterthur. In keeping with tradition, the Congress will close with an address by a member of the Swiss government.

This year children aged between 8th and 14 will be allowed to accompany parents attending the Congress under very favourable terms. During the congress they can join young Swiss Abroad attending a holiday camp run by the Foundation for Young Swiss Abroad. And in the week before the Congress, a seminar will be organised for teenagers and young

adults aged between 15 and 25. The discussion will focus on study opportunities in Switzerland, and participants will also have the chance to take part in various activities such as a visit to the Technorama.

If you would like to find out more about the Congress and the arrangements for children and young Swiss Abroad, complete the form below and send it to us.

Translated from German

Please send me documentation on the 82nd Congress of the Swiss Abroad. (Block capitals please!)

Surname _____ First name _____
 Street/no. _____
 Postcode _____ Place _____
 Country _____
 Tel. _____ Fax _____
 E-mail _____

Please complete the form and return by **15 June 2004** to:
 Organisation for the Swiss Abroad, Congress, Alpenstrasse 26, CH-3000 Berne 16,
 E-mail: congress@aso.ch