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## Introducing swisskids!

Attention boys and girls! As of 20 August the "Swiss Review" website will be featuring a new "swisskids" section especially for you. Check it out: there are stories about Switzerland and Swiss Abroad, and Prof. Dr. Emmi Taler is on hand to answer all your questions about Switzerland. swisskids also features reports from holiday camps and the current programme of youth packages. Plus, you can find penpals, take part in a competition for great prizes, and lots more. You'll find swisskids at [www.revue.ch](http://www.revue.ch). Enjoy!

# SWISSKIDS



## Snow'n'fun!

**Skiing, snowboarding, sledging, ice skating, enjoying the mountain air, making new friends: all this and more is offered by the two winter camps for 8- to 14-year-olds:**

- Monday 27 December 2004 to Wednesday 5 January 2005 in Bosco Gurin (Ticino). Cost: CHF 800
- Saturday 19 February 2005 to Saturday 26 February 2005 in Meiringen-Hasliberg (Bernese Oberland). Cost: CHF 640

Young people who find it difficult to finance the trip due to reduced circumstances can apply for a reduction.

And ten children who were born in 1990 and 1991 can attend the Swiss Ski Association's large ski camp in Lenk free of charge. The camp will be held in January 2005, and a draw will be held to select the participants.

For details on these offers, visit [www.aso.ch](http://www.aso.ch) (SJAS) or contact the following:

Foundation for Young Swiss Abroad (SJAS)  
Alpenstrasse 26  
PO Box  
CH-3000 Berne 16  
Tel +41 31 356 61 16  
Fax +41 31 356 61 01  
E-mail: [sjas@aso.ch](mailto:sjas@aso.ch)

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We look forward to your online visit.



## Obituary: Marcel Ney

Marcel Ney, the former Director of the Organisation for the Swiss Abroad (OSA), has died at the age of 80. For two decades he was a driving force behind our country's Swiss Abroad policy and the organisation that advocates the interests of the Fifth Switzerland.

Between 1967 and 1986 Marcel Ivo Ney was head of the Swiss Abroad Secretariat of the New Helvetic Society, the predecessor to today's OSA. A lawyer with a Bernese attorney's licence, he acquired valuable experience in private business before taking up his post.

Director Ney's term of office coincided with the legislation governing implementation of the Swiss Abroad article which was incorporated in the federal constitution in 1966. The task was to regulate the military obligations of Swiss Abroad as well as their status in terms of social and health insurance and welfare benefits. To address the special situation in which Swiss Abroad and their children find themselves, the citizenship laws were subjected to several amendments with the aim of ensuring the voting rights of our compatriots abroad. This necessitated a thorough overhaul of the mechanisms for informing the Fifth Switzerland, and a revision of the Confederation's role vis-à-vis Swiss schools abroad.

The Ney era left behind a broad-based, solid regulatory mechanism that is essentially still valid to this day.

As a passionate traveller, unbiased observer and skilled communicator, Marcel Ney knew how to build up a global network of personal contacts and an incomparable wealth of expertise in Swiss Abroad policy. And as a versatile artist and talented statesman, he honed these skills in the service of the Fifth Switzerland.

Having completed his professional obligations, this exemplary



Marcel Ney made a major contribution to the image of the Fifth Switzerland.

ambassador for the Swiss Abroad enjoyed one and a half decades of highly active retirement, investing his well-earned free time with his wife Dorothee in pursuit of travel, social contacts and cultural interests. Sprightly as ever, he celebrated his 80th birthday last autumn in the company of OSA members.

Marcel Ivo Ney died in Berne on 5 May 2004 following a brief, serious illness. We mourn the loss of a highly cultured man, a great friend and the epitome of the Fifth Switzerland. The Organisation for the Swiss Abroad and the Swiss diaspora owe him their eternal thanks.

Rudolf Wyder, OSA Director

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**The Chain of Solidarity – a lifeline from Switzerland, wherever the need is.**

More at [www.swiss-solidarity.org](http://www.swiss-solidarity.org)





## Youth arrangements: top quality for low prices

Switzerland is a vacation destination. Visitors come from all over the world to enjoy the spectacular Swiss Alps. But not many tourists are offered such value for money as young Swiss Abroad. Contact the OSA to find out about holidays in Switzerland and take advantage of the wide range of offers.

You can get a good idea of the atmosphere of our youth camps by logging on to the youth portal of [www.aso.ch](http://www.aso.ch) and reading the camp diaries. The mood is relaxed and

laid-back. The discussions are stimulating and fruitful. It's all great fun and you can benefit from the expertise of our trained sports instructors.

*Register now for the next camp:*

### **New Year's ski camp in Sedrun (GR)**

(27.12.04. – 05.01.05)

A get-together in the Grisons Alps for 60 young people from over 15 countries. The Sedrun ski region has reliable snowfalls and offers lots of variety. Accommoda-

tion is in a renovated building right in the village centre. Never before have New Year's wishes been expressed in so many languages.

The OSA provides advice and information on the Swiss educational system. Our language courses provide an opportunity to learn a national language, and you can experience Swiss life as a guest with a host family. Wherever possible, we endeavour to cater to your individual requirements.

*We highly recommend attending the youth session in autumn:*

### **Federal Youth Session**

(31.10.04. – 07.11.04)

In Switzerland, young Swiss are exclusively responsible for organising the assembly of the Youth Parliament. Every year a session is held in the Houses of Parliament, when young people formulate their opinions and demands for submission to Swiss decision-makers.

This year sees the sixth Youth Parliament to be held with young Swiss Abroad present. A unique opportunity to take a peek behind the scenes of Swiss politics!

If you speak one of Switzerland's national languages and are aged between 14 and 21, you can take part in the Youth Session free.



Shared experiences promote a sense of community.

## Welcome to the Winterthur congress

The Congress of the Swiss Abroad is to be held in Winterthur for the first time. The activities between 20 and 22 August are many and varied: discovering a culturally rich city and its innovative enterprises, social encounters, and a plenary session of the Council for the Swiss Abroad on 21 August. This

year's topic is: "Technological innovation – the challenges facing Switzerland". In an increasingly tough market, Switzerland cannot afford to rest on its laurels. Where does our country stand and how can it promote a risk culture? High-calibre speakers, including scientist and adventurer Bertrand

Piccard, will be giving their views. We look forward to welcoming you to Winterthur and wish you an enjoyable and stimulating congress!

Make an impact in Switzerland, make new contacts and gather valuable experience. Sign up now!

*As always, additional information is available at [www.aso.ch](http://www.aso.ch) or from*

*Organisation for the Swiss Abroad  
Youth Service*

*Tel: ++41 (0)31 356 61 00*

*Fax: ++41 (0)31 356 61 01*

*youth@aso.ch*

### **March of Hope**



On 3 October the "March of Hope" will be held in Geneva, with over 5,000 children marching in favour of disadvantaged children in Haiti and, in so doing, attesting to Geneva's reputation as a city of peace and solidarity. Terre des Hommes Switzerland invites all Swiss living abroad to take part in this international solidarity march by making a "virtual" contribution. Terre des Hommes Switzerland will mention your support on a bulletin board near the starting block. Even if you live far away from Switzerland, you can show that you are close in spirit and support the kids in their march on 3 October! Many thanks.

*For more information, visit:*

*[http://www.tdh-geneve.ch/soutien/swissabroad/swissab\\_d.htm](http://www.tdh-geneve.ch/soutien/swissabroad/swissab_d.htm)*

*Please forward this information to your Swiss friends and colleagues. Your contribution will help to prove that solidarity knows no borders!*