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Take advantage of our youth arrangements – register now!

The OSA's Youth Service offers young Swiss Abroad a variety of opportunities to visit Switzerland. New accommodation has been reserved for our winter sports camps, host families are ready to welcome young guests from abroad, and keen students can benefit from our study opportunities.

If you haven't yet attended a Swiss Abroad winter sports camp, you've really missed something special. Young people from all over the world get together under one roof to enjoy ten days of winter sports and camp life. The OSA's

qualified ski and snowboard instructors will show you the latest techniques and help you to achieve personal bests on the slopes. What makes the camps so exciting is the personal contact with all those who share a common Swiss heritage. You'll find out lots of interesting facts about the land of your forefathers and can contribute your own experiences to discussions. A wide-ranging programme of activities guarantees variety and entertainment. And naturally, no camp would be complete without a rousing camp party. For all those who want to spend an unforgettable winter holiday in Switzerland, we recommend a Swiss Abroad camp.

The *New Year's camp in Sedrun* has been fully booked for weeks, but you can experience the virtual camp atmosphere by visiting www.aso.ch. The camp diaries will be available online from 27.12.04.

The following camps still have free slots:

Winter sports week in Wengen (BE) 05.03. – 12.03.2005

A ski and snowboard camp for young adults from age 18, in the majestic alpine environment of the Eiger, Mönch und Jungfrau. Wengen is a popular winter sports resort, famous for the Lauberhorn downhill ski race. You, too, will have the opportunity to tackle the World Cup run. The atmosphere at this camp is always outstanding.

Easter camp in Unterwasser (Toggenburg SG): 25.03. – 03.04.2005

Since Easter is very early this season, there are no worries about lack of snow and we can enjoy the longer hours of daylight to the full. A winter sports camp for young

people aged between 14 and 25, with lots of entertainment. Fun on the ski slopes of the Churfirsten paradise and a camp where boredom is an unknown concept.

Study arrangements

Holidays and studying can be combined in our arrangements. We offer individual advice for those wanting to find out about educational opportunities in

Switzerland. Sample the atmosphere at well-known Swiss universities. The OSA offers a practical insight into your dream career. A friendly host family awaits your visit.

As usual, information and details on youth arrangements are available from:

Organisation for the Swiss Abroad Youth Service
Alpenstr. 26
3000 Berne 6
Tel: ++41 (0)31 356 61 00
Fax: ++41 (0)31 356 61 01
youth@aso.ch
www.aso.ch

Foundation for Young Swiss Abroad Summer Camps 2005

Are you between 8 and 14 years old? Want to spend 14 days in Switzerland and get to know your home country better? The Foundation for Young Swiss Abroad will be holding its summer camps during the months of July and August 2005.

We've rented great accommodation in Stäfa (Lake Zurich), Wald (Appenzell), Torgon (Valais), Mannenbach (Lake Constance), Valbella (Grisons), Hasliberg and Beatenberg (Bernese Oberland), with room for 30 to 50 kids from all over the world. The programme of events includes visits to the surrounding region and Swiss tourist attractions, hikes, games, handicrafts and, of course, plenty of time to make friends with others of your age.

Experienced multilingual camp leaders ensure that the two-week camp runs smoothly and provide for entertainment and fun.

The parental contribution of CHF 800 covers all accommodation costs. The cost of travel to Switzerland is borne by the parents.

The Foundation for Young Swiss Abroad aims to offer all Swiss children living abroad the opportunity to take advantage of our arrangements. It has therefore set up a special fund for subsidised contributions. Application forms can be requested with the registration form.

Details on the individual holiday camps will be available in January at www.aso.ch (SJAS Section). We'll also be glad to send you our information brochure by post. The deadline for registration is 31 March, 2005.

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you need any further information.

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Note: There are still some places available for the winter camp in Hasliberg (19.2. to 26.2.05)! Please register soon.

New topic for swisskids

Christmas and New Year traditions

Schwarzenburg (canton Berne) practises an age-old tradition: On New Year's Eve a man dressed as an ass wanders around, accompanied by a band, a "bridal couple", "witches", "devils" and other figures. You can find out more about Christmas and New Year customs and traditions in December and January on swisskids, the website for young Swiss Abroad.

Prof. Dr. Emmi Taler will also be on hand to answer more questions about Switzerland, plus you can find penpals, take part in competitions and win great prizes, and lots more... Visit swisskids by logging onto www.revue.ch. Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!