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## Summer camps in 2012 for children aged 8 to 14

Are you aged 8 to 14? Would you like to spend 14 days in Switzerland getting to know your homeland better? Then sign up for a holiday camp run by the Foundation for Young Swiss Abroad. We organise summer holiday camps in Switzerland's most beautiful regions during July and August.

### Programme

Our camps give you the opportunity to see the sights, to discover lakes, mountains, rivers and incredible scenery, to go on short hikes and perhaps even visit some cities. Some days are also spent at the camp, where we organise games, sporting activities and various workshops.

You will also have the chance to learn lots of useful things about Switzerland. For example, we look at the Swiss languages, Swiss songs, Swiss recipes and typically Swiss games and sports.

The interaction between participants beyond all linguistic, cultural and national boundaries provides an opportunity to enjoy an unforgettable experience and to make lots of new friends.

### Costs

The prices of the offers are set out in the list below. The Foundation for Young Swiss Abroad wishes to give all Swiss children abroad the opportunity to spend a holiday in Switzerland at least once if



Happy times at past summer camps run by the Foundation for Young Swiss Abroad

possible. We therefore offer reduced camp rates. The relevant application form can be requested with the registration form.

### Travel/meeting point

The meeting point is Zurich airport around lunchtime.

Travel to and from Zurich airport is organised and paid for by parents.

### Leaders

Experienced, multilingual teams of leaders ensure that the two-week holiday camps are well-organised and offer a wide variety of activities.

### Registration

The exact details of the individual holiday camps and the registration form can be found, from Wednesday, 1 February 2012, at [www.sjas.ch](http://www.sjas.ch). We are also happy to post you our information brochure on request. The registration deadline is 15 March 2012.

Please contact the office in Berne for further information:

*Foundation for Young Swiss Abroad*  
Alpenstrasse 26 CH-3006 Berne

Tel. +41 (0)31 356 61 16

Fax +41 (0)31 356 61 01

E-mail: [sjas@aso.ch](mailto:sjas@aso.ch)

[www.sjas.ch](http://www.sjas.ch) (Our forthcoming activities)

### SUMMER CAMPS IN 2012

- Sat. 30.6.–Fri. 13.7.12: Gsteig b. Gstaad (Berne) for 40 children aged 8–14, price: CHF 900.
- Wed. 11.7.–Fri. 20.7.12: Swiss trip for 24 children aged 12–16, price: CHF 950.
- Sat. 14.7.–Fri. 27.7.12: Mümliswil (Solothurn) for 36 children aged 8–11, price: CHF 900.
- Sat. 14.7.–Fri. 27.7.12: Prêles (Berne) for 36 children aged 11–14, price: CHF 900.
- Sat. 28.7.–Fri. 10.8.12: Obersaxen (Grisons), sports camp for 48 children aged 12–14, price: CHF 950.
- Sat. 28.7.–Fri. 10.8.12: Aurigeno (Ticino) for 36 children aged 8–11, price: CHF 900.
- Sat. 4.8.–Fri. 17.8.12: Mariastein (Solothurn), radio camp, children produce radio broadcasts and discover Switzerland. For 48 children aged 8–14, price: CHF 950.
- Sat. 18.8.–Fri. 31.8.12: Valbella (Grisons) for 36 children aged 8–14, price: CHF 900.

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## OSA advice

**I would like to study in Switzerland – what would happen in terms of military service?**

In Switzerland, all men are obliged to carry out military service before the end of the year in which they turn 30 years of age or 34 years of age if they already completed military training school before leaving Switzerland. Upon your return to Switzerland, you will therefore be called upon to fulfil your military obligations based on your age and aptitude level. Swiss citizens can be recruited until the end of the year in which they turn 25 years of age. They will then be asked to attend military training school before the end of the year during which they turn 26 years of age. An exception exists for men who have already carried out military service in Switzerland, who have been granted military leave to go abroad or who have not been in the country for an uninterrupted period of over six years and are no longer needed by the army. Citizens not recruited owing to

their age do not have to complete military training school but have to pay military service exemption tax. Swiss citizens abroad who wish to stay in Switzerland for a period of over three months have to notify the head of section within 14 days of their arrival.

If you hold dual nationality and have already carried out military service or alternative civilian service or have made an exemption payment in your country of origin, you no longer have to carry out military service in Switzerland. However, this does not release you from the obligation to provide notification of your arrival and you may have to pay the military service exemption tax. If you have carried out military service or alternative civilian service in Germany, Austria, France or Italy, you will be exempt from paying the military service exemption tax owing to agreements that Switzerland has concluded with these countries.

You can also voluntarily decide to attend military training school in Switzerland as a Swiss citizen abroad. Requests in such cases should be addressed to:

*Führungsstab der Armee  
Personelles der Armee (FGG 1)  
Steuerung und Vorgaben  
Rodmattstr. 110, 3003 Berne  
Tel. 031 324 32 56, Fax 031 324 14 92  
E-mail: [personelles@gst.admin.ch](mailto:personelles@gst.admin.ch)  
Website: [www.vbs.admin.ch](http://www.vbs.admin.ch)*

Conscientious objectors to military service can undertake alternative civilian service. Alternative civilian service lasts one and a half times longer than military service. For further information:

*Zivildienst Zentralstelle  
Malerweg 6, 3600 Thun  
Tel: 033 228 19 99, Fax: 033 228 19 98  
E-mail: [info@zivi.admin.ch](mailto:info@zivi.admin.ch)  
Website: [www.zivi.admin.ch](http://www.zivi.admin.ch)*

SARAH MASTANTUONI, Head of the Legal Department

OSA's Legal Department provides general legal information on Swiss law and specifically in areas that concern the Swiss abroad. It does not provide information on foreign law and does not intervene in disputes between private parties.

## Area for the Swiss Abroad – new ideas sought

**A global ideas competition for the design of the Area for the Swiss Abroad in Brunnen has been launched by the Foundation Council.**

Ideas are being sought for a prominent, meaningful and permanent symbol that expresses the concept of the Area for the Swiss Abroad in a clear and contemporary way and is perceived as a distinctive feature.

The proposals must be compatible with requirements for the protection of the natural environment, landscape and lake-side as well as with the utilisation needs of the Area for the Swiss Abroad Foundation and the expectations of the local population.

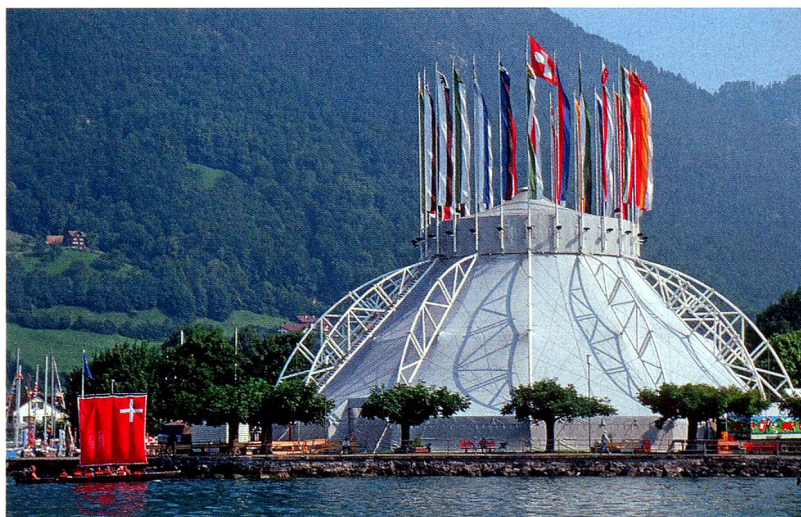
Competition entries may consist of keywords, detailed text, sketches or other illustrations. They must be suitable for

further development and realisation. Participants should provide as much detail as possible concerning the implementation of their ideas and the cost and effort involved. Ownership of the competition entries will be transferred to the Area for the Swiss Abroad

Foundation upon submission, and they may be used, developed or modified by the Foundation as required.

Full competition details can be found on OSA's homepage at [www.aso.ch](http://www.aso.ch)

The deadline for the submission of ideas is 31 March 2012. The winning ideas will go on public display in Brunnen in July/August and at the Congress of the Swiss Abroad in Lausanne in August 2012.



The Area for the Swiss Abroad in 1991 with the "Botta Tent", which was erected to celebrate 700 years of the Swiss confederation





## On a voyage of discovery

OSA has a new offer for young Swiss people abroad – the chance to spend two weeks discovering wide-ranging aspects of life in Switzerland, writing reports on their findings and publishing these online.

Water, history and architecture are just three of ten topics for which OSA has pro-



duced suggestions for day trips. Participants will be given these suggestions together with plenty of background information.

The project participants will then go off on their excursion, observing and describing what they see, and answering questions. All this material will go into their reports. These will then be uploaded to the Internet as text, photos or videos.

Other items required for the project will be a camera, a pen and a notepad. A ticket for public transport in Switzerland during the stay will be provided.

Each young explorer from abroad will stay with a Swiss host family, who will be very interested to hear all about their guest's life story, culture and experiences. The host families will also provide Internet access for the publications.

OSA is looking forward to reading the reports and contributions of Swiss abroad who have discovered Switzerland in this way and is hoping to see an impressive output.

Young people will also, of course, be able to take advantage of this offer prior to or after one of our holiday camps. There are



still some places available to latecomers on the winter sports week in Wengen. OSA is also organising an Easter camp in Fiesch with a wide range of activities. All OSA's offers for young people can be found at [www.aso.ch](http://www.aso.ch) (Offers).



## 90th Congress of the Swiss Abroad: 17 to 19 August 2012

At the 90th Congress of the Swiss Abroad in Lausanne participants will debate Mobility and Innovation: Switzerland in Times of International Challenges. More on this topic and the latest information on the 2012 congress can be found at: [www.aso.ch/en/offers/congress-of-the-swiss-abroad/2012](http://www.aso.ch/en/offers/congress-of-the-swiss-abroad/2012).

Put the congress dates in your diary today. We look forward to seeing you at the Palais de Beaulieu in Lausanne.

Please send me the registration documents in spring 2012 for the 90th Congress of the Swiss Abroad (17 to 19 August 2012 in Lausanne).

My address is:

Surname:

First name:

Address:

Country:

Postcode/city:

E-mail:

Please write clearly in block capitals

Send the completed form to: Organisation of the Swiss Abroad, Communications & Marketing, Alpenstrasse 26, CH-3006 Berne, Fax: +41 (0)31 356 61 01 or e-mail us at [communication@aso.ch](mailto:communication@aso.ch).