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OSA offers for young people this winter:

Discover Switzerland together and enjoy sun and snow!

The OSA Youth Service offers young Swiss citizens abroad a wide variety of opportunities to visit Switzerland. This winter, it once again has three wonderful offers aimed at adolescents and young adults aged 15 and over.

New Year's ski camp for young people in Les Diablerets (Vaud) from 27.12.2017 to 5.1.2018

A great and varied winter camp in Les Diablerets in the Vaud mountains – sun, snow and fun! Open to young Swiss Abroad aged 15–18. Motivated and trained camp leaders ensure participants have a memorable experience.

Registration and information:

www.swisscommunity.org/en/youth/leisure-offers

Winter sports camp for adults in Saas-Grund (Valais) from 27.12.2017 to 5.1.2018

The Valais Alps have some great skiing opportunities. The Youth Service is running its second winter camp with a programme perfectly suited to young Swiss Abroad aged 18 and over.

Registration and information:

www.swisscommunity.org/en/youth/leisure-offers

German course in Lucerne, 8–19 January 2018

Learn German, one of Switzerland's four national languages, or improve your German skills at our German course in Lucerne. Our joint activities in the afternoon will also acquaint you with Swiss towns, cities and mountains. Your host family will provide an insight into the life and culture of a Swiss family.

Registration and information:

www.swisscommunity.org/en/youth/training-offers

Subsidies

The Youth Service has funding available to provide support for financially disadvantaged participants. Applications can be made under the following link:

www.swisscommunity.org/en/youth/reduction-of-fees

Youth Service contact details:

youth@aso.ch; +41 31 356 61 00; www.facebook.com/ASOyouth

educationsuisse: Conference of the Swiss Schools Abroad

This year's Conference of the Swiss Schools Abroad took place in Zurich on 10–12 July. The official part of the event, which was attended by more than 100 people, took place under the motto "Zurich and education abroad". High-calibre speakers – including Ivo Bischofberger, the President of the Council of States; Zurich Education Minister Silvia Steiner; *economiesuisse* Chair Monika Rühl; as well as the rectors of the University of Zurich and Zurich University of Teacher Education – addressed the issue of education both in Switzerland and abroad from a variety of perspectives. The canton of Zurich is the sponsor canton of the Swiss schools in Mexico, Catania, Madrid and the newly-opened Swiss school in Beijing. Sponsor cantons primarily support "their" schools educationally, in part because the Swiss Schools Act grants them educational supervision. Almost 8,000 children, about 980 of whom are Swiss nationals, are enrolled at the 18 Swiss schools worldwide that are recognised by the Swiss Federal Government.

Also in attendance at the conference were the school head teachers as well as the chairpersons of the school committees. In addition to the official event, the conference was an opportunity for further training and networking and to meet Isabelle Chassot, the Director of the Federal Office of Culture (FOC), which looks after the Swiss schools around the globe. The FOC runs federal support programmes and processes applications for Federal Council recognition of new Swiss schools. The network of existing Swiss schools reflects aspects of the history of Swiss migration. To this day, new schools are still founded at the initiative of local Swiss citizens.

The conference was organised by *educationsuisse*, an association that acts as the umbrella organisation of the Swiss schools abroad. *Educationsuisse* represents the interests of Swiss schools abroad towards the general public, companies and the authorities in Switzerland and provides these schools with a number of administrative, financial management and HR management services. It also supports and advises young Swiss citizens abroad and pupils at Swiss schools abroad who would like to study or undergo vocational training in Switzerland. Our employees speak German, French, English, Italian and Spanish.

The complete report on the Conference of the Swiss Schools Abroad can be found on the www.educationsuisse.ch website.

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Stiftung für junge Auslandschweizer
Fondation pour les enfants suisses à l'étranger
Fondazione per i giovani svizzeri all'estero
Fundazion per giuven svizzers a l'ester

FYSA: Winter camp for children

Whether skiers or snowboarders, novices or at an advanced level, 8 to 14-year-old Swiss children abroad will have a great time at our winter camp.

Winter camp in Valbella (Grisons)

Date: Wednesday, 27 December 2017

to Friday, 5 January 2018

Number of participants: 42

Fee: CHF 900 (contribution to the camp)

Ski or snowboard hire: approx. CHF 150

Registration deadline: 15 October 2017

Registration:

The exact details of the winter camp and the registration form will be available at <http://sjas.ch/en/camps> from 15 September. Reduced rates are offered in justified cases. The required form can be requested on the registration form. We would also be pleased to post you our information brochure on request.

Free participation in young people's ski camp!

Six hundred children aged 13–14 will enjoy a winter sports week free of charge in Lenk in the Bernese Oberland on 2–8 January 2018 for the 77th time. The 600 winners of the prize draw will include 25 Swiss Abroad.

A further chapter in the history of ski camps for young people (Juskila) will begin on 2 January 2018, when 600 girls and boys aged 13 and 14 will travel from all over Switzerland to Lenk in Simmental by special train. For the 77th time, Swiss-Ski and its partners are holding Switzerland's largest winter sports camp. This time it is the turn of children born in 2002 and 2003.

Anyone wishing to take part in the ski camp for young people (Juskila) must be able to speak at least one of Switzerland's three national languages (German, French or Italian). The camp places will be awarded through a prize draw, with the prize being participation in the camp that includes winter sports lessons, food and accommodation. Parents are responsible for organising and funding the outbound and return journeys. The 25 Swiss Abroad who have won a place will be announced at the end of September.

Form for the prize draw for the JUSKILA camp in Lenk (2 to 8 January 2018)

Please complete in clearly legible block letters.

First name: _____

Surname: _____

Street: _____

Postcode, place: _____

Country: _____

Date of birth: _____

Name of parent/legal guardian: _____

☐ Girl ☐ Boy

Commune of origin in Switzerland (see passport/ID): _____

Email address of parents: _____

Tel. no. of parents: _____

Type of sport: ☐ Alpine skiing ☐ Cross-country skiing ☐ Snowboarding

Only tick one! The type of sport cannot be changed once the draw has taken place.

Language of child: ☐ German ☐ French ☐ Italian

Signature of parent/legal guardian: _____

Signature of child: _____

Send the coupon and a copy of the Swiss passport of one parent or the child by 15 October 2017 (date of receipt) to: Foundation for Young Swiss Abroad (FYSA), Alpenstrasse 26, 3006 Berne, SWITZERLAND

Information:

Foundation for Young Swiss Abroad (FYSA); Alpenstrasse 26; 3006 Berne, SWITZERLAND

Tel. +41 31 356 61 16; Fax +41 31 356 61 01; Email: info@sjas.ch; www.sjas.ch

OSA advice

Acquaintances tell me that the divorced former wives of Swiss citizens can receive a widows' pension after the death of their ex-husband. I'm 80 and living abroad. If I'm in this situation, can I apply for a widows' pension?

Yes, if you haven't remarried in the meantime, you may be entitled to a widows' pension under certain conditions. These conditions are laid down in law as follows: If you are divorced and your former spouse dies, you are entitled to receive a widows' pension if you have children and you were married for at least ten years, or if you were over 45 when you divorced and you were married for at least ten years, or if your youngest child will turn 18 after you have reached the age of 45. If you satisfy none of these require-

ments, you are entitled to a widows' pension until your youngest child turns 18.

Source: The AHV/IV information centre in association with the Federal Social Insurance Office

Applications should be made directly to the Swiss Compensation Office in Geneva: Swiss Compensation Office (SCO); OASI Benefits, Av. Edmond-Vaucher 18, P.O. Box 3100, CH-1211 Genf 2, Switzerland. Tel.: +41 58 461 91 11; Fax: +41 58 461 97 05

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