

SSA news

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Winter sports' camps 1998/99

Ski, snow, fun

Ski, sport, snow, fun and sun – those are the promises of the winter sports' camps of the Secretariat for the Swiss Abroad. Off to Switzerland!

The winter sports' camps offer Swiss Abroad aged from 8 to 35 an unforgettable stay in Switzerland, their second homeland. The Foundation for Young Swiss Abroad and the Youth Service of the Secretariat for the Swiss Abroad offer you, in the coming winter too, an attractive programme.

Two camps for 8- to 14-year olds

Places/dates: Splügen/Grisons or Engelberg/Obwald; December 26th 1998 to January 2nd 1999 (in Engelberg an extension week is possible: January 2nd to 9th 1999).

Cost: SFr 600.– (additional cost for extension week: SFr 300.–)

Participants: Swiss Abroad children aged between 8 and 14. There are no special conditions in sports' terms.

Further details and registration at

Foundation for Young Swiss Abroad
Alpenstrasse 26
CH-3000 Berne 16
Tel. +41 31 351 61 60
Fax +41 31 351 61 50
E-mail: post_aso@aso.ch

A special offer is directed towards Swiss Abroad children born in 1984 and 1985. Eight to ten of them may take part free of charge in the Youth Ski Camp of the Swiss Ski Federation in Lenk from January 2nd to 9th 1999. Enthusiasm for winter sports and good knowledge of a Swiss national language are

conditions. Those interested should also apply to the Foundation for the Young Swiss Abroad. The last application date is October 1st. Lots will be drawn by the Swiss Ski Federation in November for those taking part.

Two camps for 13- to 25-year olds

Place/date: Grächen/Valais December 27th 1998 to January 5th 1999. Extension until January 9th possible; Grimentz/Valais, April 2nd to 11th 1999.

Cost: SFr. 650.– Additional cost for extension: SFr 250.–

Participants: Young Swiss

Optional AHV/IV: the position of the OSA

Provision versus welfare

The consultation process on the reform of the optional AHV/IV is open. The Organization for the Swiss Abroad takes up a position.

The positive first: the possibility of joining the Swiss AHV/IV optionally should neither be completely eliminated nor too drastically restricted, as has repeatedly been suggested in the last few years (see also page 11). But the Federal Council's proposal still contains two main points which are not satisfactory.

In countries with which Switzerland has concluded a social security agreement, new entries would in future no longer be possible. However, the OSA demands that for those Swiss who cannot build up sufficient old-

age and disability provision under the social security systems of the agreement states a solution in the framework of the optional AHV/IV scheme should continue to be possible.

New: At the Easter camp in Grimentz 13- and 14-year olds may also participate.

New: wintersports' holidays for 20- to 35-year olds

Place/date: Grindelwald/Berne, March

7th to 14th and March 14th to 31st 1999. (Participation one or two weeks as desired)

Cost: One week: about SFr 600.–, two weeks: about SFr 1100.–

Participants: Swiss Abroad aged between 20 and 35.

Further information and registration at

Secretariat for the Swiss Abroad
Alpenstrasse 26
CH-3000 Berne 16
Tel. +41 31 351 61 00
Fax +41 31 351 61 50
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Youth exchange: discover Switzerland

Did you not always want to know whether Switzerland really consists only of mountains and banks and whether chocolate and cheese are really on the daily menu? Our 6-week youth exchange scheme will enable you to find out. In your next summer holidays you can discover Switzerland as it really is.

19 countries participate in the exchange scheme, with Switzerland: Argentina, Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Chile, Costa Rica, Denmark, Germany, Ecuador, Finland, Holland, Canada, New Zealand, Norway, Sweden, South Africa, Hungary, United States, Venezuela.

Further information may be obtained from the Secretariat for the Swiss Abroad

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Fax +41 31 351 61 50, E-mail: post_aso@aso.ch*

age and disability provision under the social security systems of the agreement states a solution in the framework of the optional AHV/IV scheme should continue to be possible.

The OSA also opposes the proposition that Swiss who emigrated in their youth or were born abroad can no longer take out insurance with the Swiss AHV/IV.

The OSA has never disputed the need for reform of the optional AHV/IV, but for years it has been struggling for a revision which would take into account the legitimate requirements of today's and future Swiss Abroad. In particular it points out that about two-thirds of those insured are women, who often have no adequate insurance opportunities in the Agreement states. In addition, ac-

count must be taken of the fact that Swiss Abroad without means will lay claim to welfare funds.

In the interests of the Fifth Switzerland and in consequence at the end of the day also in the interest of our country as a whole, the OSA will come out in the present reform debate in favour of maintaining an insurance opportunity for our compatriots abroad if they depend upon it.

RL

Louis Guisan is dead

On July 13, Louis Guisan, honorary president of the Organisation for the Swiss Abroad, died at the age of 87. An appreciation will follow later.