

Zeitschrift: Swiss review : the magazine for the Swiss abroad
Herausgeber: Organisation of the Swiss Abroad
Band: 37 (2010)
Heft: 1

Rubrik: Organisation of the Swiss Abroad

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OSA ADVICE

QUESTION:

I am a Swiss citizen living abroad and I did not receive the voting documents for the last ballot. What can I do to make sure this does not happen again?

ANSWER:

In order to exercise their political rights, Swiss citizens abroad must be registered with the Swiss representation responsible for their place of residence. They also have to complete a form to register to exercise political rights. This registration has to be renewed every four years using a form that the polling commune sends out directly to Swiss citizens at least once a year. If the registration is not renewed, the polling commune will remove the voter from the electoral register. However, voters can re-enrol at any time by completing the form for exercising political rights and returning it to the Swiss representation concerned.

If you have not received your voting documents, please first check that you are still registered with your Swiss representation for the purpose of exercising political rights. If you are not, you must complete the registration form for exercising political rights and return it to the Swiss representation. If you are still registered, check with your polling commune to ensure you are properly enrolled on the electoral register. If

you are not properly enrolled, you must re-enrol with your polling commune for the purpose of exercising political rights. If you are properly enrolled, this means the blame for the fact that you have not received your voting documents lies with the postal service, a problem which is unfortunately still all too common, but which should be improved by the introduction of electronic voting.

On a general note, please ensure that you inform your Swiss representation of your change of address if you move house.

The form for registering for political rights is available at:

In French: www.aso.ch/fr/conseils/vivre-a-letranger/droits-politiques/formulaire-dinscription

In German: www.aso.ch/de/beratung/leben-im-ausland/politische-rechte/anmeldeformular

If you encounter problems in exercising your political rights, standard letters relating to various scenarios are available on OSA's website at:

In French: www.aso.ch/fr/conseils/vivre-a-letranger/droits-politiques/difficultes-lors-de-votations

In German: www.aso.ch/de/beratung/leben-im-ausland/politische-rechte/schwierigkeiten-bei-abstimmungen

OSA's legal service provides general information on Swiss law in areas which specifically concern the Swiss abroad.

It does not provide information on foreign law and does not intervene in disputes between private parties.

Offers for young people aged 15 and above

OSA offers attractive opportunities for young Swiss people abroad to discover Switzerland. The new summer brochure featuring various holiday and educational programmes for young people will be out in the coming days. There are also still places available for the winter sports camp for young adults and the Easter camp in Valais. Contact us for details.

The Swiss Alps are covered with snow, the slopes of the ski resorts are in excellent condition, and OSA's ski and snowboard instructors cannot wait to teach you the latest winter sports techniques.

There are still some places available for the winter sports camp from 27 February to 6 March 2010.

The Easter camp for young people aged 14 and above will be held in the sports and holiday centre in Fiesch. Young Swiss from all over the world will meet up in the hometown of star skier Daniel Albrecht, from 3 to 11 April 2010. The famous alpine panorama of the Aletsch region, with views of Switzerland's largest glacier and the Matterhorn, is the ideal location for spending sunny days on snow-covered mountains. The accommodation centre in Fiesch offers lots of alternatives to winter sports. You can enjoy use of an indoor swimming pool, climbing walls, indoor sports halls and outdoor facilities.

88TH CONGRESS OF THE SWISS ABROAD: 20 TO 22 AUGUST 2010, OLMA MESSE ST.GALLEN

I am interested in the next Congress of the Swiss Abroad. In spring 2010, please send me the registration documents for the 88th Congress of the Swiss Abroad (20 to 22 August 2010 in St.Gallen) to the following address:

Surname/first name: _____

Address: _____

City/postcode/country: _____

E-mail: _____

Please write clearly in block capitals and return the completed form to:

Organisation of the Swiss Abroad (OSA), Communications Department, Congress Organisation, Alpenstrasse 26, CH-3006 Berne. To save on postage and time, you can also contact us directly by e-mail: communication@aso.ch. The latest information on the forthcoming congress will also appear regularly at www.aso.ch/de/angebote/auslandschweizer-kongress. It is worth visiting our website from time to time.

OFFERS FOR YOUNG PEOPLE AGED 15 AND ABOVE

The holiday and educational offers of the Organisation of the Swiss Abroad (OSA) are aimed at young Swiss people abroad aged 15 and over. Information on OSA's offers for young people can be obtained from the **OSA Youth Service**:

Telephone: +41 31 356 61 00
youth@aso.ch, www.aso.ch

You can also register for offers for young people on the website.



Take advantage of OSA's educational programmes to find out lots of important information about Switzerland.

OSA will explain how the Swiss education system works, and give you the opportunity to visit Switzerland's top schools and universities and to make useful contacts.

There are many more offers to choose from besides those mentioned here. Visit our website now at www.aso.ch to find the right option for you. We look forward to your visit.

As usual, information on the offers mentioned is available from

*Organisation of the Swiss Abroad
Youth Service*

Tel: +41 (0)31 356 61 00

Fax: +41 (0)31 356 61 01

youth@aso.ch

www.aso.ch

Camps for children aged 8 to 14

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

Programme

At our camps you will have the opportunity to see the sights, to discover lakes, mountains, rivers and magnificent scenery, to go on short hikes and

perhaps enjoy city visits. Some of the days are also spent at the camp, where you can enjoy games, sport and a variety of workshops.

You will also be given the chance to learn lots of interesting things about Switzerland. We look at the Swiss languages, Swiss songs, Swiss recipes and typically Swiss games and sports.

The interaction between participants, which rises above all barriers of language, culture and nationality, is an opportunity to enjoy unforgettable experiences and to forge lots of new friendships.

Prices

The prices of the offers are quoted in the list below. The Foundation for Young Swiss Abroad would like all Swiss children abroad to have at least one opportunity to enjoy a holiday in Switzerland. This is why a fund for reduced contributions has been set up. An application form can be requested with your registration.

Travel/meeting point

The meeting point is arranged for around midday at Zurich airport. Travel to and from Zurich airport is organised and paid for by parents.

Leaders

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

Registration

Exact details of the individual holiday camps and the registration form will be available from Monday, 15 February 2010 at www.aso.ch (Offers/Offers for Children and Young People). We

would also be pleased to send you our information brochure by post on request. The registration deadline is 15 March 2010.

Summer camps 2010

Sat. 3.7. – Fri. 16.7.10: Les Mosses (VD) for 36 children aged 8 to 11, price: CHF 900

Sat. 3.7. – Fri. 16.7.10: Scuol (GR) for 36 children aged 11 to 14, price: CHF 900

Sat. 17.7. – Fri. 30.7.10: Les Mosses (VD) for 36 children aged 8 to 11, price: CHF 900

Mon. 19.7. – Fri. 30.7.10: Tent camp in Château-d'Oex (VD) for 30 children aged 11 to 14, price: CHF 600

Wed. 21.7. – Fri. 30.7.10: Swisstrip for 20 young people aged 12 to 16, price: CHF 950

Sat. 31.7. – Fri. 13.8.10: Rueun (GR) for 36 children aged 8 to 11, price: CHF 900

Sat. 31.7. – Fri. 13.8.10: Sports camp in Obersaxen (GR) for 48 children aged 12 to 16, price: CHF 950

Sat. 7.8. – Fri. 20.8.10: Engelberg (OW) for 40 children aged 8 to 14, price: CHF 900

Sat. 7.8. – Fri. 20.8.10: Flumserberg (SG) for 36 children aged 11 to 14, price: CHF 900

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

www.aso.ch (Offers)

CAMPS FOR CHILDREN AGED 8 TO 14

The camps for young Swiss people abroad aged 8 to 14 are organised by the **Foundation for Young Swiss Abroad (FYSA)**. Information on these camps can be obtained from FYSA:

Telephone: +41 31 356 61 16
sjas@aso.ch, www.aso.ch

You can also register for offers for young people on the website.

ORGANISATION OF THE SWISS ABROAD

Our services:

- Legal Department
- Youth Service
- Association for the Promotion of Education for Young Swiss Abroad (AJAS)
- Committee for Swiss Schools Abroad (CSSA)
- Foundation for Young Swiss Abroad (FYSA)

Organisation of the Swiss Abroad, Alpenstrasse 26, CH-3006 Berne, Phone +41 31 356 6100, Fax +41 31 356 6101, info@aso.ch, www.aso.ch