



ÖSTERREICHISCHES JUGENDROTKREUZ

Aus Liebe zum Menschen.

 Bundeskanzleramt

Bundesministerin für Frauen,
Familien und Jugend

German Red Cross
Mrs. Janine STÜCKEMANN
Carstennstrasse 58
12205 Berlin
Germany

07 April 2023

INTERNATIONAL STUDY AND FRIENDSHIP CAMP 2023

Dear Colleagues!

The Austrian Youth Red Cross (AYRC) is hosting its International Study and Friendship Camp in the summer of 2023. The International Study and Friendship Camp is an annual event that brings together young people who are involved in the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement at local and national levels from around the world. These young volunteers come together to work on certain topics, exchange ideas and opinions, share life-experiences, and discuss cultural perspectives.

This year's Camp will be held from 10 July to 24 July 2023 in Langenlois – a beautiful small city in Lower Austria!

We would like to invite a group of two [2] motivated and enthusiastic youth members who are involved in and/or who volunteer for your organization to attend this exciting event (if **more** than two [2], please **contact us to fix the number** of participants in a direct bilateral way). The young people that you choose to represent your National Society should be aged between 16 and 23.

Important:

- Participants must have reached the age of 16 before they start the camp in Austria! (according to the camp program and the Austrian Youth Protection Law)

This year's Camp theme is:

It's your storyline!

USE YOUR INFLUENCE TO INSPIRE OTHERS ON & OFFLINE

Have you ever sat down to think about how you became a volunteer? How you attended your first Red Cross/Red Crescent event and found friends there? People who share the same mindset as you? If you can recall a person encouraging you, staying by your side, while you were still new to all these things, you are lucky.

In 1859 a Swiss merchant traveled past a battlefield next to Solferino where soldiers were left to die. His instinct was to help them in any way so he turned to the nuns of the neighbouring village. It didn't seem significant or newsworthy back then but through his charisma, empathy and hard work, the worldwide biggest humanitarian organization was born.

Now, you don't need to be the next Henry Dunant or wield superhuman powers in order to help others. In fact, you already have the skills and tools to make a difference. The internet and social media give us a huge advantage in organizing, raising awareness or just making connections, reaching thousands of people even on the opposite side of the globe. However, we also need to take a look a bit deeper than that. Does the picture we paint of ourselves online match our offline personality? Do we interact with others the way we should? Our actions define not just who we are but how people look at us. Just by treating them with respect, it can go a long way. You can be the reason for someone to smile or laugh today or to pass kindness forward.

In these past years the world has raised many visible and invisible walls between us. It seemed difficult to imagine that one day we will hug our loved ones tighter than ever, that we will see our friends laugh next to us, rather than through a screen. Now - that we have these chances again - is the time to strengthen and build connections where they are most needed.

These lines may raise several questions in you and we hope you'll have the chance to get an answer to them during our workshops and activities in the once-in-a-lifetime summer camp organized by the Austrian Youth Red Cross.

With this in mind, we would like to invite two motivated youth delegates from each national society to join us at the 65th International Friendship Camp in Langenlois, Austria in July this year. This year's two-week programme will focus on the possibilities provided by the internet in the humanitarian area, the role of the individual acting against discrimination and bullying both online and offline, cultural exchange, network- and friendship building with fun exercises and activity groups. The workshops and information groups will give a better insight and a helping hand to understand the importance of these topics and later on their application in your own national society. Also, you will get several chances to explore the beautiful sights and culture offered by this lovely country in the heart of Europe.

So if this sounds like the perfect summer, do not hesitate and fill in the application form! We look forward to meeting you!

The topics of discussion at the camp will be based to the seven fundamental principles of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement - topics that are important and meaningful to all young people. The discussions will take place in Information-Groups (moderated by competent group facilitators) and in creative workshops. The camp's diverse program will be supported by a variety of written materials and multi-media tools. **The camp's official language is English.** It is therefore **vital** that the participants can **communicate effectively in the camp language.**

Fact Box:

Up to two (2) or more young and motivated volunteers active in your National Society, 16-23 years of age, are invited. The **application-form** should be **sent** to the Austrian Youth Red Cross, **before 09 June 2023**.

Boarding, lodging and costs related to the program will be covered by the Austrian Youth Red Cross, **travel costs to/from Vienna and the participation fee have to be covered by the respective National Society.** **For more information please contact:**

Günter J. STUMMER, mail: guenter.stummer@redcross.at, phone: +43 1 589 00 - 378

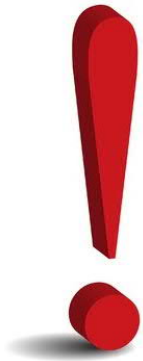
Excursions to Vienna and Mauthausen will provide participants with the opportunity to explore the culture and history of Austria.

The annual Torchlight peace-walk at the Camp is a symbol of our efforts and an opportunity for participants to interact with Austrians outside the camp.

At the „Festival of Nations“, the camp’s impressive closing ceremony, participants will present their home countries (song, dance, sketch etc.) and the work during these weeks will be displayed and/or performed.

We are inviting youth delegates from selected countries all over the world. We kindly ask you to respond to our invitation as quickly as possible, or **latest until 09 June 2023!**

Please send your response (whether „YES“ or „NO“) to the Austrian Youth Red Cross. We can host only max 45 participants at the camp 2023. (Applications will be considered according to the date of arrival – **note: first come, first serve!**)



ATTENTION!

There is a Participation fee of EUR 75,- per participant which should be paid (in cash/€) during the camp.

Travel costs should be covered by the participating national society. Your organization is responsible for all travel costs incurred by your group (to and from Vienna).

Boarding, lodging and costs related to the program in Austria will be covered by the Austrian Youth Red Cross.

More detailed information (programs, details regarding arrival and departure times, bank details etc.) will be sent to you once we receive your registration form.

We are looking forward to seeing you in Langenlois!

Greetings from Austria,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Günter J. Stummer', written over a light blue horizontal line.

Günter J. STUMMER
Austrian Youth Red Cross

➤ Annex: Info-Sheet

INFO-SHEET

PARTICIPANTS

Two (2) Youth volunteers of your National Society, male or female, aged between 16 – 23 years can participate at the International Study and Friendship Camp. In the last years between 21 and 23 national societies participated with young delegates. There will be about max.45 participants at the camp.

TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS

Participants are requested to arrive in Vienna on Monday, 10 July 2023 morning or afternoon (not earlier than 06a.m., latest about 5p.m.), and depart on Monday, 24 July 2023 after breakfast (not earlier than 10a.m.). Please let us know your flight schedule as soon as possible. Our volunteers will meet your delegates at Vienna International Airport upon your arrival to provide shuttle service (about 1hrs drive to the camp location with shuttle service). Our team will wear and/or show the Red Cross sign for recognition. Participants also shall wear shirts with Red Cross / Red Crescent signs for recognition by our team at their arrival in Vienna!

HEALTH AND TRAVEL INSURANCE AND TRAVEL ADVICE

Participants are suggested to have a individual health and accident insurance.

For medical treatment at the hospital, the easiest way by experience is to pay directly in cash at the hospital or with credit card and handle the process with your insurance back home afterwards. Otherwise participants are requested to give their address to the hospital for the delivery of the invoice.

CLIMATE

The camp will be held in summer, July, the hottest time anyway is August. The weather is expected to be hot and humid with 25° - 35°C and there possibly can be some rain. Please be prepared for the unexpected and changing weather in Austria (rain and temperatures also in summer only about 15°C and less possible!).

EXPENSES

The Austrian Red Cross Society will be responsible for accommodation, meals and in-country travel costs – everything related to the camp. The participants must be responsible for other personal expenses such as shopping, telephone etc.

CURRENCY

Money should be exchanged to Euro. **US\$ 1 is equivalent about EUR 0,916**

➤ official rate by: 07 April 2023, <http://www.oanda.com/currency/converter/>

WHAT TO BRING ALONG!

- **Participation fee in cash in EUR!** - should be paid at the camp (beginning or during)
- **National RC/RC uniform or shirts** for opening ceremony
- **National Costume** for international activities and “Festival of Nations” (closing ceremony)
- National Flag
- **Country Report** and **exhibition items** of your National Societies
- **Light Clothing** (casual)
- **Personal belongings**
- Sport shoes, slippers, **raincoat**
- **Souvenirs, badge pins** and/or **other trade items** for exchange
- **Personal expenses**