

## Information on the 2021 holiday camps

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Dear parents,

The coronavirus remains a concern all over the world and will probably be an issue for some time to come. As we are all aware, measures to combat the virus on a national level can change weekly in some cases. That makes it difficult for us to plan for 2021. To help counter this uncertainty, the Organisation of the Swiss Abroad, SwissCommunity, has decided to take the following measures:

- Reduction in the number of summer holiday camps from the usual fourth to one and winter holiday camps from two to one.
  - Because there is too much uncertainty as to the number of registrations, it is not possible to aim for business as usual.
- Swiss Challenge has been cancelled for summer 2021.
  - The Swiss Challenge, a Swiss trip programme, revolves around changing locations every one to two days. A mass illness or quarantine in the camp community would be unmanageable. Cantonal measures are also always changing, making it more complicated to plan trips across the country.
- Any cancellations of individual holiday camps will take place at least six weeks before the start date.
  - The Organisation of the Swiss Abroad, SwissCommunity, will provide notification if a holiday camp is cancelled and the cancellation fees will not be applied (see our General Terms and Conditions).

## Further information and recommendations that are important for planning the trip:

### ENTERING SWITZERLAND

Swiss nationals can enter Switzerland under any circumstances and at all times. The same goes for the children of Swiss Abroad with a valid Swiss passport/Swiss ID (or a valid Swiss passport/valid Swiss ID held by a parent).

The current ruling by the Federal Office of Public Health (FOPH) is that people coming from a country or area on the Swiss "List of countries and areas with an increased risk of infection" remain in quarantine for ten days.

- You can find detailed information on the "List of countries and areas with an increased risk of infection" and information on the quarantine [here](#).
- Further information about entering Switzerland is available from the [State Secretariat for Migration SEM](#).
- Quarantine is regulated at the cantonal level in Switzerland. That means the applicable conditions are those stipulated in the canton where your child is in quarantine. Make sure you check with the [cantonal authorities](#) about the quarantine procedure and other conditions.

**It is not yet possible to predict which countries will be on the Swiss risk list next summer and winter.**

- Make sure your child can travel to Switzerland ten days before the camp is due to start.
  - **Children travelling by themselves:** Do you have relatives or friends in Switzerland your child can spend quarantine with?
  - **Accompanied children:** Will you as the accompanying adult have somewhere to spend the obligatory ten days of quarantine in Switzerland?
- The Organisation of the Swiss Abroad, SwissCommunity, recommends that families only register children if they have somewhere to spend quarantine in Switzerland.
- Parents are responsible for organising the trip and arranging for somewhere to spend quarantine.

**Please note that failure to comply with the mandatory registration and quarantine requirement is a contravention of the Epidemics Act. Should we become aware of such a contravention, it would result in the immediate exclusion of your child from the holiday camp. We would also be obliged to inform the relevant authorities.**

## LEAVING YOUR COUNTRY OF ORIGIN

- Find out from the authorities in your country of origin what you need to do to leave the country and travel to Switzerland.
- Find out from your airline company whether there are any other travel conditions, such as on stopovers.

## INSURANCE

The participation fee does not include insurance cover. Accident, third-party liability and health insurance are the responsibility of the participant. The Organisation of the Swiss Abroad, SwissCommunity, does not arrange insurance cover. We expect camp participants to insure themselves against risks. We therefore recommend you arrange for suitable international insurance (see our General Terms and Conditions).

It is imperative to take out private health insurance to cover the eventuality of illness in another country. Costs related to a (potential) case of Covid-19, including Covid tests, medical examinations, etc. are always charged via the health insurance in Switzerland. **As parents, you need to be aware that your child will need to be tested if he or she displays symptoms of Covid during the camp.**

**The Organisation of the Swiss Abroad, SwissCommunity, assumes NO liability and bears NO costs related to insurance or insurance claims.**

## APPLICATIONS FOR DISCOUNTS ON CAMP COSTS

- It is still possible to apply for discounts on camp costs. You can find the relevant form [here](#).
  - It is not sufficient to simply give the global Covid-19 situation as the main reason. We would need a detailed explanation of your situation so we can apply the discounts fairly among those families in need.
  - Applications for travel cost reductions will only be approved if the family can demonstrate that it has taken out travel insurance. If you have any further questions, please contact the Youth department ([youth@swisscommunity.org](mailto:youth@swisscommunity.org)).

## CANCELLATION OF THE HOLIDAY CAMP REGISTRATION

In the event that the participant cancels, our general terms and conditions apply and the specified cancellation fees will be charged.

- Cancellation charges: in the event that the participant cancels:
  - Following registration and up to the closing date = 50% of the total cost
  - From the closing date up to 15 days before the start of the camp = 75% of the total cost
  - 14-0 days before the camp start = 100% of the total cost





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Should a participant leave the programme early they will not be given a refund. **No refunds will be provided by the Organisation of the Swiss Abroad, SwissCommunity, in the event of a last-minute cancellation (regardless of the reason).** Please contact your insurance provider or travel agent if you wish to be insured against such an event.

#### **PROTECTIVE MEASURES AND THE HYGIENE REGIME IN THE HOLIDAY CAMP**

The Organisation of the Swiss Abroad, SwissCommunity, will inform the families about the protective measures and hygiene regime during the holiday camp when it sends out detailed information on the camps. The families will receive the detailed information by email during the spring/early summer before the camp starts. We would stress in this connection that the protective measures and hygiene regulations during the camp are for people who are not in a risk group.

We realise that everyone (parents, children, our volunteer leaders and the Organisation of the Swiss Abroad, SwissCommunity) will need to show much more flexibility to manage this year's camp season. At the same time, we all need to be on the same page and be prepared to go the extra mile if we are once again to offer an unforgettable camp in Switzerland to our young Swiss Abroad.

We would like to thank you for your openness and cooperation and we look forward to an unforgettable summer and winter in 2021.

