

# Bilateral Youth Exchange in the Swiss Mountains 22 – 29 August 2021, Switzerland: Israel-Switzerland

Foundation “Stiftung Urgestein” in Guggisberg / Switzerland  
together with youth groups from Israel



- One week youth exchange in the Swiss mountains (Gantrisch region)
- Bilateral youth exchange for a Swiss and Israeli school class (15-17 years)
- Methods: Intercultural dialogue, mountain activities, explore Swiss rural life, discussions and games

<p><b>What</b></p>	<p>A summer youth exchange in the Swiss mountains of Gantrisch where two groups of diverse cultures from a specific distinct nature background come together. Through outdoor and non-formal activities, the youth groups interact between and get to know each other. Through creative sessions, discussions, games and presentations, participants will learn about each others' reality, challenges and dreams in life. Furthermore, they will work together for the benefit of the local Alp farmers helping them in the Schwarzsee region as a symbol for international volunteering in farming</p>
<p><b>Participating organisations</b></p>	<p>A school class from Israel and one from Switzerland, organised by the following organisations:</p>

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	<p><b>Israel: Agudat Qidum Hachinuch</b>  <b>Switzerland: Foundation “Stiftung Urgestein” Guggisber</b></p>
<b>Participants</b>	<p>1 class per country (around 24 persons per group)  Each group will be accompanied <b>by at least 2 youth leaders per country</b></p>
<b>Accommodation and travel</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The youth exchange will take place in the St. Michael group house in Schwarzsee</li> <li>• Separated dorms for boys and girls</li> <li>• Self-operating kitchen by a chef with the help of participants</li> <li>• Both groups will meet at Basel airport and travel together with a shuttle bus to Schwarzsee</li> <li>• Stiftung Urgestein will organise all travel arrangements for both groups</li> </ul>
<b>Costs</b>	<p>The main funding comes from the Swiss National Agency “Movetia Foundation”.  Participation costs per participant: EUR 150.-  Travel costs are reimbursed by 70%  Youth leaders do not pay participation costs and their travels are reimbursed by 100%    Rest of transportation, accommodation, food and program are covered by the program.</p>
<b>Main coordination</b>	<p>Stifung Urgestein Guggisgerg:  Oliver Schneitter, Switzerland  Erika Marty, Switzerland</p>
<b>Methods</b>	<p>The youth exchange will work with non-formal and outdoor methods such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Group work and outdoor activities in a mountain environment</li> <li>• Group and individual reflection (debates, meditation)</li> <li>• Intercultural group activities (cooking, dance, arts)</li> <li>• Volunteer environmental engagement in the Naturepark Gantrisch (local Alp farms)</li> <li>• Discussions and debates</li> </ul>
<b>Logistics and safety</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The responsibility for the content will be by the youth leaders of the participating partner organisations</li> <li>• The coordinating organisation Stiftung Urgestein is organising all logistical and travel arrangements as well as insurances and preparation of participants</li> <li>• A safety concept is provided by Stiftung Urgestein</li> <li>• A preparatory meeting for the youth leaders of both Swiss and Israeli partners will take place 2 weeks before the youth exchange</li> <li>• Local authorities and medical services will be notified about the youth exchange</li> <li>• Health and travel insurance is in the responsibility of the partner organisations and participants. All participants must bring a copy of their health insurance valid</li> </ul>

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	<p>for Switzerland and a filled medical form (will be distributed before the exchange by the coordinator)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A detailed information pack containing travel, preparation and logistic information will be sent to all youth leaders to study it well with their participants before the exchange.</li> <li>• For special activities we work with a certified outdoor education trainer</li> <li>• <b>Partners must equip their youth group with outdoor clothes for hot and rainy weather as well good mountain boots</b></li> </ul>
<p><b>Learning assessment:</b></p>	<p>The overall language of the youth exchange will be English. This is not the mother tongue for both two countries. The Israeli group will explore Swiss German expressions and the Swiss group will experience Hebrew and Arabic.</p> <p>Every participant will receive a learning certificate providing information about the results and content of the youth exchange. Furthermore, pupils will have the possibility to make interviews with participants from the other country and conduct a study about the life of young people from a different culture.</p>
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