



## **JOHN F. KENNEDY INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL SUMMER CAMP - SWITZERLAND**

### **BACKGROUND**

Since 1949 the Kennedy School has been a private international boarding and day school from mid-September until the end of June. It is designed for children of all nationalities who are to be prepared for entrance into English-language secondary schools.

Since 1971 it has been owned and directed by Sandra and William Lovell, who are originally from Canada, and since 1973, the Kennedy School has been offering a summer camp program to boys and girls during the months of July and August.

### **THE PROGRAM**

In a superb Swiss alpine setting, the children enjoy a well-balanced, happy and safe holiday experience which introduces them to a variety of sports and exciting outdoor activities. At the same time, the summer camp offers children the opportunity to learn or to practise English. Daily lessons are combined with a total immersion program. Not only are all camp activities conducted in English, but the children are constantly encouraged to develop their vocabulary and to use new skills. Children already proficient in English have the opportunity to take daily French lessons.

### **THE BOARDING STUDENTS**

This summer there will be approximately 60 boarding students between the ages of 6 and 14, representing 18 to 22 nationalities. Four children share a bedroom and there is one counsellor assigned to each room to supervise daily routines and to ensure that each camper maximizes the benefits of his or her summer experience.

The camp is divided into 2 sections - one for boys and girls aged 6 to 10 and the other for children aged 11 to 14. The younger children will be housed in the original Kennedy School chalet in Saanen and the older children will live at the Mountain Lodge just above Schönried and about 5 km from Saanen.

### **THE DAY STUDENTS**

There are usually between 25 and 30 day students aged 6 to 14 who attend camp on Mondays to Fridays from 08.45 until 17.45. There are 5 to 6 counsellors who supervise and counsel the day students whenever necessary.

### **THE STAFF MEMBERS**

Our English-speaking staff members are either professional teachers or experienced camp counsellors. Our staff training program emphasizes the need for close supervision, safety and awareness of the needs of each individual child.

## THE DAILY SCHEDULE

**07.20 Wake-up (supervised by room counsellors)**

**07.50 Breakfast**

**08.15 Brush teeth and complete room chores**

**08.45 Language Classes**

The campers have language lessons in English or French from Mondays to Fridays in small instructional groups according to age, ability and experience.

**10.15 Swimming Classes (older children)**

After pre-testing, the children are assigned to their swimming groups (5 to 8 students per class). Lessons are aimed at improving strokes, increasing endurance and developing good water safety habits.

**Morning Program (younger children)**

While the older children are swimming, the other children have a variety of sports, games, and local excursions. In the afternoon, the program is reversed with swimming classes for the younger students and a special program for the older group.

**11.30 Lunch (younger children)**

**12.00 Lunch (older children)**

**13.15 Interest Groups or Outdoor Education or Camper-Counsellor**

Each child chooses two **interest groups** per camp session. Usually offered are horseback riding, tennis, pottery, archery, badminton, ping pong, arts and crafts, sports and games, rock-climbing, etc.

The **outdoor education** program is a combination of fitness training, team sports and lessons in outdoor living including hiking procedures, camping skills, nature study, first aid, etc.

**Camper-counsellor** time is also scheduled from time to time when children can do something special with their own room or day counsellors.

**15.45 Afternoon Snack**

**16.00 Swimming Classes (younger children)**

**Afternoon Program (older children)**

**17.30 Supervised Free Time**

**18.00 Dinner**

**19.00 Evening Program** A special activity is organized daily.

**20.15 Bedtime Snack** followed by quiet reading.

**21.00 Lights Out**

## WEEKDAY EXCURSIONS

Regular excursions are planned throughout the summer including all-day mountain hikes as well as day trips to places such as to Montreux, Interlaken or Bern. During each session there are 2 overnight adventures - camping out in tents and a two day hiking trip with an overnight stay at one of the fully-equipped Swiss Alpine Club huts. These two outings are very popular with the children and always prove to be highlights of the camp program.

## WEEKEND PROGRAM

**Saturdays** are more relaxed for the boarders who, after completing their morning chores, have free time to play outdoors. They also receive their weekly pocket money to go shopping in Saanen or Gstaad with the counsellors. There is a supervised free swim on Saturday and a DVD movie in the evening.

**Sundays** are all-day excursions organized to give the children opportunities to see different parts of Switzerland and learn about the alpine environment. These outings have included visits to the Diablerets Glacier, the castle at Gruyères and many of the local mountains, as well as trips to the zoo, the lake of Neuchatel, or the Olympic Museum in Lausanne.

## SPECIAL EVENTS DAY

Finally, each camp session ends with a "Special Events Day" in which the children participate in various swimming and field events. Following a special barbecue, the campers are presented with awards and are recognized for their achievements in swimming, language, interest groups, outdoor education and morning or afternoon program.

## PROGRESS REPORTS

At the end of camp, parents will receive written reports summarizing the activities in which their children participate and assessing general progress in the program.

## LOCATION

The Kennedy School is located in **Saanen**, one of the most beautiful mountain villages in the Bernese Oberland. It is 3 km from the famous winter and summer resort of Gstaad. By car, it is approximately 1 3/4 hours from Geneva, 1 1/2 hours from Bern, and 2 1/2 hours from Zurich. By train, there are good connections from Geneva to Saanen via Montreux or from Zürich via Bern, Spiez and Zweisimmen.

**Schönried** is 5 km above Saanen in the direction of Zweisimmen.

## FACILITIES

The John F. Kennedy International School is housed in several Bernese chalets in Saanen including three schoolhouses with 10 classrooms, a 9,000 volume English library, a drama room, an art room and the Boarding House for the 30 children aged 6 to 10. Adjacent to the Boarding House is a 2-acre playing field and basketball half court. A few minutes from the school are the Saanen tennis courts, the local gymnasium, outdoor and indoor swimming pools, and many mountain cable cars and chairlifts.

The Mountain Lodge will be the home to 30 children aged 11 to 14 as well as 6 to 8 staff members. It is located above the village of Schönried and contains 20 bedrooms, kitchen, dining room, games rooms and recreational areas as well as an outdoor playground. Sports facilities in the Saanenland are easily accessible.

## **HEALTH AND SAFETY**

The health, safety and general welfare of the individual camper is the first concern of the Kennedy School. Every precaution is taken where campers eat, play and sleep. No activity is undertaken without proper supervision or where undue risk is involved. A qualified physician is available at all times and there is a fully-equipped hospital in Saanen. Full health and accident insurance is available through the school and is compulsory for boarders.

## **TRAVEL**

Upon request, staff members will escort children to and from the Geneva airport and assist them with check-in and customs formalities. The school is prepared to advise parents in all matters concerning travel to and from the school. Parents are reminded that, depending on nationality, some campers may require tourist visas for Switzerland.

## **TERMS AND CONDITIONS FOR SUMMER CAMP**

The Kennedy School offers two 3-week camp sessions - one in July and one in August. Full details concerning application procedures, the dates of the camp sessions and fees are described on a separate page entitled "Terms and Conditions for Summer Camp".

## **PRE-CAMP INFORMATION**

During the second half of April, all families who have registered children will receive a package containing final details about the camp sessions such as a clothing and equipment list, health form, summer questionnaire and fees calculation form.

**Due to the fact that the number of places is limited, families are urged to make their applications before January.**

**For additional details, please write or call:**

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