

Recommendations for the youth exchange

In the age of globalisation youth exchange develops all its being up-to-date. The acquisition and the command of a foreign language as well as the customs and conventions being linked, cannot simply be learned by watching TV or surfing on the Internet. The only possibility for our youth **to feel at ease with the language and also in the European parlours** is given by the possibility of an international exchange with a stay at different families. Therefore we, inside CILANE, try to foster this youth exchange among various languages and countries: Austria, Belgium, Croatia, Germany, Finland, France, Italy, the Netherlands, Russia, Spain, Sweden and Switzerland!

The ladies and gentlemen who are responsible for the youth exchange in these countries including sixteen associations, **voluntarily** seek to find suitable host families in the respective countries so that the different wishes of the families can be answered best as possible .

For a real success of an exchange, it seems to be important for us to keep certain codes of behaviour in mind. Although many of these recommendations correspond to reason, it still makes sense to mention them.

- First of all it is important to include your youths in the process of the exchange by filling in the questionnaire together. An exchange can only be successful if the teenagers really want to participate in it and are **very motivated**.
You should not forget that your children remain there without you.
- We ask you to send your request **as soon as possible**, i.e., for the summer holidays till **April 30th** and for the autumn holidays till **August 31st** so that the persons being responsible for the exchange can have enough time to find a suitable family.
- It can be helpful for the youths to “meet” each other via “Facebook” or “WhatsApp” or by any other **social platform** to make a first contact or to “sniff at each other” before they meet in the respective families.
- When you receive a youth, you must be aware that you **should be present** and always contactable during this stay. Please bear in mind this important point. If necessary take your holidays.
- It is therefore also important that you consider an employment and sightseeing programme in good time so that both children can benefit from the exchange.
- In this context, you should also discuss with the host parents how much pocket money your child should take with him or her and who will pay for admission to cinemas, museums, restaurants, etc.
- The mobile phone is also always a point of discussion. Please clarify in advance with your daughter or son that mobile phones should not be used as a daytime occupation.
- For the guest children feeling comfortable in your families it is important that you always express yourself in their presence in the language they understand and which has been agreed on.

- It is also important that you arrange and organise the **arrival** of your child with the host family and whether you personally **hand over** your child to the host family.
- When your child travels abroad, please take care that your **health insurance** also takes over the costs abroad and that you have got an accident insurance, a **private casualty insurance** and possibly a **travel cancellation insurance**, too.
- Your children should always keep an “**emergency number**” with them, e.g., if possible the number of a friend in the host country as well as pocket money in the local currency.
- Unfortunately, every now and then it may happen that you will have to **cancel** your child’s stay at your host family, respectively the stay of a guest child at your family. Therefore it is important of course that the family concerned is informed as fast as possible. It goes without saying that such a cancellation should only happen because of **serious reasons**. In general, the flight tickets, respectively the railway tickets have already been bought and the families concerned have already organised their holiday programmes.
- **N. B.:** Due to the changing Corona pandemic situation, we suggest to the families participating in the exchange, on the one hand, to regularly inform each other about the sanitary measures in the respective countries and, on the other hand, to openly communicate with each other how they handle the protective measures against a possible infection within the family and whether a Corona vaccination (parents, children) is an important prerequisite for them to actually participate in the “Jugendaustausch”.

Finally, I wish you and your children a happy and successful exchange and remain respectfully yours

Béatrix de Sury d’Aspremont, March 2022
Responsible for the youth exchange of CILANE.