

INTERCULTURAL YOUTH SUMMER CAMP

27th August – 3rd September 2018

Greece, Youth Men's Christian Association of Thessaloniki

Agios Nikolaos, Chalkidiki

Organizers

UNESCO Center for Women and Peace in the Balkan Countries

The UNESCO Center is a non-governmental non profit Organization, established in Thessaloniki by UNESCO'S 27th General Conference and inaugurated in 1994 by the Organization's Director General, Mr Federico Mayor.

The Center has an extensive experience in the implementation of programmes, which aim to promote education and multicultural dialogue, encourage female contribution to development, safeguard peace and rapprochement of civilizations in the geographical area of the Balkans. Adult education, leadership, gender equality, solidarity, multicultural dialogue and mutual understanding are on the permanent agenda of this organization.

Youth Men Christian Association of Thessaloniki

YMCA, is a non-governmental organization, founded in 1921, which has a long and successful course in implementing interdisciplinary programs and youth camps providing participants with the opportunity to exercise, be entertained and participate in educational, scientific, cultural and creative activities, that promote team spirit, cooperation and volunteering.

Moreover, the Youth Summer Camp aims to enhance dialogue between youth from Balkan countries, promoting their diverse culture, and traditions. The participating countries for 2018 are: Greece, Cyprus, Romania, Croatia, Serbia, Albania, Montenegro, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Bulgaria and Slovenia.

Objectives of the program

The youth summer camp aims to promote intercultural dialogue, rapprochement of civilizations and the dissemination of education, sciences, culture and sport as developmental tools that combat social exclusion, while safeguarding peace.

Moreover, it aims to establish a network of exchange, among youth from the Balkan countries, encouraging deeper understanding on issues pertinent to modern societies such as peace, human rights, cultural diversity, gender equality and sustainable development, which lie at the heart of UNESCO's priorities.

Countries participating in the program

Boys and girls aged between 12 and 15 years old, from Greece, Cyprus, Romania, Croatia, Serbia, Albania, Montenegro, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Bulgaria and Slovenia can participate in this program. Each country can send a maximum of 12 participants and an escort adult who will join the group, stay throughout the camp with the participants and then leave with them upon closure of the programme.

Camp overview and conditions for participation

The camp will host boys and girls aged 12-15 years, from Greece and the aforementioned countries. The children from each country will be accompanied by an adult team leader/escort who will stay with them throughout the summer camp period.

Participants and their escorts should speak English relatively well, since this will be the language of communication with campers of other nationalities. The same applies for adult escorts, whose role is essential to facilitate dialogue among youth participants.

Previous camping experience is desirable for a more effective integration of participants' and a deeper understanding of the aims of this intercultural programme.

The theme of the Summer Camp for 2018

The theme of this year's camp is "Environmental Education and Climate Change". However, besides the elaboration of the aforementioned, which lies at the heart of UNESCO's priorities, participants will have the opportunity to participate in numerous individual and group activities including: swimming, diving, sailing, canoeing, sports, group games, handicrafts and constructions, excursions, entertainment nights, and more.

Expected results

The participation of youth in the intercultural camp will contribute to the achievement of a number of objectives, including: promoting intercultural dialogue, rapprochement of civilizations, volunteering, human rights, environmental education, sustainability and its linkages to education, the sciences and culture, gender equality and the establishment of peace.