

INTERNATIONAL STUDY AND FRIENDSHIP CAMP 2025

DETAILED INFORMATION

Dear Colleagues!

The Austrian Youth Red Cross (AYRC) is hosting its **International Friendship Camp in the summer of 2025**. The International Study and Friendship Camp is an annual event that brings together young people who are involved in the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement at local and national levels from around the world. These young volunteers come together to work on certain topics, exchange ideas and opinions, share life-experiences, and discuss cultural perspectives.

This year's Camp will be held from July 7th (day of arrival) to July 21th (day of departure), 2025 in Langenlois – a beautiful small city in Lower Austria!

We would like to invite a group of two [2] motivated and enthusiastic youth members who are involved in and/or who volunteer for your organization to attend this exciting event (if **more** than two [2], please **contact us to fix the number** of participants in a direct bilateral way). The young people that you choose to represent your National Society should be aged between 16 and 23.

Important:

- Participants must have reached the age of 16 before they start the camp in Austria! (according to the camp program and the Austrian Youth Protection Law)

The topics of discussion at the camp will be based to the seven fundamental principles of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement - topics that are important and meaningful to all young people. The discussions will take place in Information-Groups (moderated by competent group facilitators) and in creative workshops. The camp's diverse program will be supported by a variety of written materials and multi-media tools.

The camp's official language is English!

It is therefore **important** that participants can **communicate effectively in the camp language - sufficient knowledge is required!**

Games, cultural activities and some free time will complement the program mix and provide the opportunity to build friendships with young people from all over the world.

Excursions to Vienna and Mauthausen will provide participants with the opportunity to explore the culture and history of Austria.

The annual Torchlight peace-walk at the Camp is a symbol of our efforts and an opportunity for participants to interact with Austrians outside the camp.

At the „Festival of Nations“ (**Saturday, July 19th 2025, 20:00 hrs local time**), the camp's impressive closing ceremony, participants will present their home countries (song, dance, sketch etc.) and the work during these weeks will be displayed and/or performed.

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This year's Camp theme is:

Echo of Change

EMBRACE DIVERSITY, UNITE AS ONE – OUR JOURNEY TOGETHER HAS JUST BEGUN!

Throughout history, the word "echo" has held many meanings. Ancient Greek mythology presents us with the tragic story of Echo, the mountain nymph with a beautiful voice who loved to chat. However, she got on Hera's bad side and was cursed so that she could no longer speak freely – she could only repeat the last words spoken to her. Heartbroken, she wasted away until only her voice remained, forever echoing the words of others. Thus, the origin of the word "echo" was born in language.

Henry Dunant, founder of the Red Cross, had a similar fate. Once a businessman, he was horrified by the suffering he witnessed at the Battle of Solferino. His efforts led to the founding of the Red Cross and the Geneva Convention, but he later fell into poverty and obscurity. Like Echo, his influence was "silenced" for a time.

Yet, just as Echo's voice endured, Dunant's ideas lived on, shaping international laws and inspiring humanitarian work worldwide. His legacy, like an echo, repeated and grew stronger over time.

Like Echo, whose voice endures beyond her own time, and Dunant, whose vision continues to save lives, their work may sometimes feel unnoticed in the moment – but its impact will carry forward. Every act of kindness, every moment spent helping others, adds to a greater legacy of compassion and humanity. Their efforts, like echoes, will reach places and people they may never see, proving that even in the face of challenges, a single voice or action can change the world.

Both remind us that even unnoticed efforts can create lasting change. Every act of kindness adds to a greater legacy, reinforcing the ideals of unity and cooperation. Young people, bringing their energy and ideas, continue this cycle, their actions spreading like echoes across communities and borders, ensuring that compassion and humanitarianism remain at the heart of society – until the smallest voices are heard across the globe, until no silence echoes fear.

So do not hesitate and fill in the application form! We look forward to meeting you!

Fact Box:

Up to two (2) or more young and motivated volunteers active in your National Society, 16-23 years of age, are invited to meet youth delegates from selected countries all over the world.

We kindly ask you to respond to our invitation as quickly as possible, or **latest until June 07th, 2025!**

Please send your response (whether „YES" or „NO") to the Austrian Youth Red Cross. We can host only max 35 participants at the camp 2025. (Applications will be considered according to the date of arrival – **note: first come, first serve!**).

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Boarding, lodging and costs related to the program will be covered by the Austrian Youth Red Cross, **travel costs to/from Vienna and the participation fee are to be covered by the respective National Society.**

For more information please contact:

Günter J. STUMMER, mail: guenter.stummer@redcross.at, phone: +43 1 589 00 – 378

Detailed information (programs, details regarding arrival and departure times, bank details etc.) you will find in the annex and once we receive your registration form.

We are looking forward to seeing you in Langenlois!

Greetings from Austria,



Günter J. STUMMER
Austrian Youth Red Cross

- Annex:
- Invitation
 - Info/Fact Sheet
 - Bank details for transferring the participation fee