



**blauring.  
jungwacht**



# Blauring & Jungwacht...

... are the two largest Catholic Children and Youth Groups in the German part of Switzerland. They have 32,000 members. In Blauring & Jungwacht children and youth can evolve. An attractive offer of activities invite them to experience new things and discover their own abilities.

Blauring & Jungwacht are associated with the Catholic church, but are open to all children and young people regardless their religion or culture.

Approximately 7,000 leaders supervise and work with 15,000 girls and 10,000 boys throughout the German part of Switzerland. All time is given voluntarily. Blauring is for girls, while Jungwacht is for boys. In some church parishes girls and boys are in the same group. In this case the group calls itself «Jubla».

Life in Blauring & Jungwacht mainly takes place in each Church parish in groups of children of the same age. These groups form a troop – in German «Schar». The troop leaders and all the group leaders plan, coordinate and organise many troop activities throughout the year.

## **Blauring & Jungwacht have five principles:**

- *zusammen sein* – **being together**
- *mitbestimmen* – **co-determination (having their say)**
- *Glauben leben* – **belief / to act in good faith**
- *kreativ sein* – **be creative**
- *Natur erleben* – **experience nature**



# Blaurig & Jungwacht offer...

- ... the opportunity for children and young people to evolve and be accepted.
- ... useful and meaningful leisure-time activities, which encourage the sense of responsibility and support the children and youth by giving them experience of life.
- ... an attractive range of activities which can be determined by the members.
- ... a community, in which belief and rituals are very important.
- ... a place, where children and youth can discover their own abilities without experiencing pressure to perform.
- ... the possibility for children and youth to strengthen their self-confidence.
- ... joy and friendships for a lifetime!



# Groupactivities...

... are called «Gruppenstunden» and are the meetings of children of the same age. Usually about six to twenty girls or boys take part in groupactivities. Depending on the troop (Schar) these meetings take place weekly, fortnightly or monthly either in the evening, on a weekday, or on a Saturday afternoon.

All groups of children are supervised by between one and three young adult leaders. The leaders attend courses to learn the responsibility of taking care of children. They often become role models, a reason for the leaders to attend various courses.

The leaders organise and perform all kinds of groupactivities. Some examples of things the children may do are: be creative, play games, have group discussions, play different kinds of sports, explore nature, go on outings, act in a play, sing, dance, make and build things and cook.

All these activities allow the children to spend a varied leisure-time and have fun!



# Troopactivities...

... are called «Scharanlässe» and are the meetings of all the groups of children of the troop. From the youngest to the eldest member – everybody can take part in a troopactivity... The number of events during the year depend on the organising troop. Mostly the children have to register for a troopactivity, so one can choose to take part or not. In this case the child receives an application for the parents to complete.

The leaders always create a programme of all the troopactivities, which is given to the children and parents early in the year. This way the parents know when their children will take part in an event. There are many possibilities of troopactivities – for example: Sledging, a «Fasnachts» (Carnival) party, a game tournament, hare and hounds, a Mothers' Day Church Service, a camping weekend, an openair cinema, a camp flashback, a barbecueafternoon, a Halloween party or a Christmas party in the forest.



# Troop camp...

... is the yearly highlight in Blauring & Jungwacht. The whole troop goes away with baggage for one to two weeks – on a Summer, Autumn or Winter camp. All the members either sleep in a large lodge, or in tents on a camping ground.

Games and sports, creative work, singing around a campfire, contemplative moments, wellness days, hikes, paper chases or hare and hounds and many more great activities make the days in camp memorable. To give the camp more excitement the leaders choose a motto.

This is the reason why nobody in Switzerland is surprised if they see a group of pirates waiting for a train to arrive, if they spot a group of aliens by a campfire, or if they meet a group of Indians on a treasure hunt in the city.

Blauring, Jungwacht and Jubla Camps are mostly organised as a Youth + Sport Camp (Youth + Sport – in German «Jugend + Sport» – is a Swiss Government Educational Sport Promotion Programme). The sport that Blauring & Jungwacht can take part in is called «campsport and trekking». This means, that the troop and group leaders must have visited various courses, must follow special safety regulations and create a camp programme with different sporting activities. As a countermove, the troop receives money from the Government, leaflets and teaching aids, camping material and the possibility of having its leaders trained. These services, and the commitment of all leaders, make every camp a success!



# The troop and group leaders...

... are young adults aged between 16 and 25. They are in charge of all the activities and have a great responsibility. They also achieve a great deal of prevention-work for children, further reasons why Blauring & Jungwacht attach importance to a steady and sustainable training of the leadership. In association with «Youth + Sport», Blauring & Jungwacht offer Cantonal and National training courses for the leaders, so they can learn all the important aspects of youth work.

Each leadershipteam is part of the national structure of Blauring & Jungwacht, and can get support and help from many people. Every troop has a coach, and sometimes another adult called a «Präses» to assist it and make sure that everything goes well. These two people have had more experience in life, and are trained for their work with the youth group so they can support the leaders. The Blauring & Jungwacht troops in each Swiss Canton have their own Cantonal leaders to support, train and guide them.

Thanks to the tireless commitment and involvement – all the leaders together in Blauring & Jungwacht perform three million hours of voluntary work a year – and 32,000 children and young people have unforgettable experiences over and over again!



Further information can be received from:

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