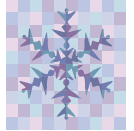


INTERNATIONAL Y NEWS

for Program Participants



*Sawatdee Pi Mai ~ Feliz Año Nuevo ~ Szczęśliwego Nowego Roku ~ Boldog új Evet
Sehe Bokmanee Batenseyo ~ ~ Hanoli Makahiki Hon ~ Prejeme Vam Vesele Vanace ~
Buone Fest Natalizie ~ Season's Greetings ~ Happy New Year!*



Holiday Greetings & Best Wishes for the New Year!

Happy Birthday ICCP!

In 2009, ICCP will celebrate 50 years of bringing the world to children at US summer camps!

We would love to hear from past participants, telling us where you are and what you are doing now. At what camp were you placed? What was your job? What do you remember most?

Take a minute and let us know.

Contact us by email

ips@ymcanyc.org



A Message from the International Y's CEO

Dear Friends,

Greetings and warmest holiday wishes. The International YMCA has undergone several changes this year, one of which is that I joined as Executive Director in June 2008. I am very proud to be a part of the excellent team that is working tirelessly on behalf of all our participants, colleagues and supporters.

As we near the end of 2008 we prepare for times of celebration with family and friends, and celebration of our faiths and spiritual foundations. As we approach these celebrations, this is also a time for reflection on the joys we have experienced and all that we have learned during this

year and a time to thank all of those who have helped us make our way.

The core of our international programs is people – human beings from a wide range of backgrounds who have the potential to learn and grow and to contribute to the learning and growth of others; people who serve and who are served. In fact, we often gain the most through giving.

By reaching out to truly understand the worldview and life experiences of others, we broaden our own horizons. By enabling young people to work or volunteer in another country and cultural setting, we help them develop leadership, communication and



Sandy Mitchell,
executive director of the
International YMCA

intercultural skills while imparting excitement to those they work with about different ways of acting and viewing the world. Thus, we aim to bring the world together and promote global citizenship. Thank you all for helping make this possible.

Sandy

Returning to Camp?

If you are interested in returning to your camp, contact your Camp Director for instructions and tell them you would like to be sponsored once again by ICCP. You can refer a family member or friend also! For additional in-

formation about the **Direct Placement/Returning Staff Program**, visit this link on our website:

[www.internationalymca.org/
ICCP/DirectPlacement/
Direct_Placement.shtml](http://www.internationalymca.org/ICCP/DirectPlacement/Direct_Placement.shtml)

Spread the word!



*Season's Greetings
and Happy New Year from all of us
at the International YMCA!*

You Spoke; We listened! Highlights from 2008 Evaluations

We appreciate those who took the time to complete the evaluation following their summer camp experience. Your responses give us great feedback on those aspects of the program and your experience that you like (*love* in many cases) and how you feel it could be improved. Here are a few highlights:

95% had an amazing

summer; gained new experiences; would like to return.

80% felt they made a contribution to international/cultural exchange at camp; felt ICCPs services and support were excellent

Some suggestions for improvement:

- Would like to hear more from camp before arriving

- Better understanding of Social Security & taxes
- Provide a list of youth hostels in the US for post-camp travel

Some quotes:

- I just loved everything!
- It changed my life!
- The kids were great!
- Camp life is great!

WHO IS THIS???



Father Christmas	England
Pere Noel	France
Pa Norsk	Norway
Babbo Natale	Italy
Bozicek	Slovenia
Shengdan Laoren	China
Deda Mraz	Croatia
Mas Cracium	Romania
Karácsony Apó	Hungary
Santa Claus	US/Canada

International Y Program Updates

Global Teens has received over 50 teen applications for "early bird" consideration for the 2009 season and 28 group leader applications. Interviews are being conducted currently and selections will be announced by the end of 2008. Deadline for applications from teens is January 23, 2009.

Go Global is placing participants for the 2009 season. If you know of any adult interested in volunteering at a YMCA or another NGO overseas, please let us know!

ICCP is ready for 2009! Let us know if you want to return to camp. Or, go to a different camp. Or, have a friend that would like to come to a US camp in the summer. Or, all of these options!

All programs are described on our site: www.internationalymca.org Please send us your photos, stories & contact info for future newsletters: ips@ymcanyc.org

TRAVEL & SEVIS VALIDATIONS

TRAVEL OUTSIDE US

Current participants wishing to travel outside the US within their program dates must submit their original DS-2019 (certificate of eligibility) form, written request from supervisor, and self-addressed postage-paid envelope to the International Y office. Upon re-

ceipt, participants will receive a receipt of confirmation by email and the DS-2019 will be signed and returned. Participants must depart and return to their sites within 30 days of their departure.

Note: If your training has been extended, we advise you to not depart the U.S. You may not be

allowed to return. For more information, contact the International YMCA.

FOR NEW ARRIVALS:

Don't forget to do the SEVIS validation:

www.internationalymca.org/SEVIS.shtml

This confirms your arrival at the designated and approved host site!

International YMCA

Serving the World
Since 1911

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