Youth Camps and Exchange
Stories from the Field
Moderator

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Important information about this webinar

• This webinar is being recorded. The recording and presentation will be available later this week on the Lions International Virtual webpage: lionsclubs.org/virtual

• Your microphone has been muted and will remain so for the duration of this webinar

• Have a question? Submit it your question to youthexchange@lionsclubs.org
Meet Today’s Presenters

- **Lion Katie Labrie**
  District A-2 Canada

- **Leo Francisco Ahmad**
  District O2 Argentina

- **Leo Lion Board Liaison**
  **Ulli Herrmann**
  District 111 NH Germany

- **Past Leo-Lion Board Liaison**
  **Potter Ka Kai Fong**
  District 308 B1 Malaysia

- **Lion Emily Struik**
  District 201N1 Australia

- **Lion Omar Ramadan**
  District 352 Egypt
Katie Labrie

District A2, Canada
YCE Participant – 2007
Host – 2015, 2016, 2019
Counsellor – 2017, 2018, 2019
A YCE Journey: Youth/ Host/ Counsellor
• Welcomed with open arms
• Explored cities & nature
• Cultural exchange
• Opportunity for leadership
• Awareness of overcoming adversity
• Living history museum

Family, Friendship, History & Beauty
Insight Informed Improvement

The perspective I gained on the value of peace, the privilege of education & technology and the power of kindness has impacted my life for the better ever since.

I had the opportunity to expand my leadership skills, to see what perseverance & passion can achieve and to bring that experience back to share with my community.

The insights gained have shaped the way I am as a host and as a counsellor.
Hosting the World

- 4 students
- Denmark, Greece, Australia and France
- Important part of our family
- Proud to stay in touch and see how they are contributing to humanity
Camp Counsellor/Manager of Opportunities and Memories aka MOM

- Focus on friendships
- Mutual respect
- Fostering leadership
- Highlighting what makes our area and our Lions Clubs special
- Celebrating what makes our campers special
Francisco Ahmad

District O2, Argentina
YCE Participant– 2018
First stop: YCE France 2018
Ahmad Host Family
YCE brothers

• Simone, Italy, 2018
• Francesca, Italy, 2019
• Carolina, México, 2020
YCE Camp Eldorado 2019
YCE Camp Eldorado 2019
Different realities

• Nature
• Environmental care
• Teamwork
“Words are never enough when what needs to be said overflows the soul”

Julio Cortázar
Past Leo-Lion Board Liaison
Potter Ka Kai Fong

District 308 B1, Malaysia
YCE Participant – 2011
Host Family – 2012
My Youth Exchange Experience to Japan, 2011
Three hosting families in 26 days
What to expect in YCE?

• Share your stories
• Learn new culture
• Interact with local person
• Celebrate local festival
• Enjoy local food
• Have fun!!!
YCE Experiences

- Yukikaki (Snow Clearing)
- Udon Noodle Making
YCE Experiences

- Visiting local newspaper factory
- Sumo Competition
Visit to local leaders

Courtesy visit to City Mayor of Yokote City, Japan

Meet the YCE Chairperson & District Governor
My Journey after Youth Exchange 2011
Hosting Youth Camps as local committee (2012)

- Discussion
- Local Tour
- Cultural Exchange
- Service Projects
- Farewell Dinner
Hosting Youth Exchange Visitors

Reiki Kato
Hokkaido, Japan
(Year 2014)

Kei Ogata
Kumamoto, Japan
(Year 2017)
The YCE Journey doesn’t end here…

- Keep in touch with your hosting families
- Share your stories on social media
- Volunteer at local YCE program
- Promote YCE program to your friends
Lion Emily Struik

District 201N1, Australia
District YCE Chairperson– 2015
Multiple District YCE Host Family Coordinator– 2017-2019
My Lions Youth Exchange Journey: 1998-1999

• Article in Milton – Ulladulla Times about hosting youth from overseas
• My family
• Ulladulla-Milton Lions Club host youth from around the world in July – August
• Joined Lions November 1999
December 1998

- Youth from Japan and Malaysia hosted by Ulladulla Milton Lions Club
2000-2002

• Youth choose whether they wanted to attend a camp
• 6 week exchange
• Life experiences for youth very different
• Relying on photos to record experiences
Perceptions About Australia

• Australia is a small country so it is easy to visit places such as Ulura and the Great Barrier Reef

• Sydney is the capital of Australia

• Kangaroos are found everywhere

• Dangerous creatures (spiders etc) are found everywhere
2014

- Rejoined Lions and became a charter member of Urungga Lions Club
- Lions Youth Exchange Program was adopted as a club project
- Chose to host 2 youth at a time as I no longer had children at home
Youth I Have Hosted: 2014-2019

• Each year I hosted youth for periods of 1-3 weeks
  • July: Europe (usually the Netherlands)
  • August: Japan
  • December – January: Malaysia, New Zealand, Japan

• 30 youth hosted
Youth I Have Hosted: 2014-2019 continued

• Facebook became the key way to record my experiences with the youth I hosted

• Family and friends were able to share the Youth Exchange journey with the youth I hosted as it was happening

• A permanent record of exchange that is easily accessible
Travel

• Public transport is limited
• Distances are large
• Time is limited
Travel

• Day trip to Port Macquarie (300km return) to get up 'close and personal' with Australian wildlife
  - Koala Hospital
  - Billabong Koala & Wildlife Park
Koala Hospital

- Home for koalas injured in accidents, bushfires etc and also treatment centre for koalas that are to be released into the wild
Australian Marsupials
Shrek – saltwater crocodile who came from the Northern Territory

Baby Dingo
Emily Struik
24 Jul 2015 • Coffs Harbour, NSW • 🌿

In the last 36 hours I have:
1. Driven more than 1100km
2. Visited the Macadamia Castle
3. Walked to the most easterly point on the Australian mainland
4. Eaten at Jupiters on the Gold Coast
5. Enjoyed the pool, spa and sauna in our apartment complex
6. Had about 4.5 hours sleep
7. Walked along the boardwalk at Broadwater
8. Went shopping in Maroochydore
9. Spent time with some Lions at the international youth camp on the Sunshine Coast

No wonder I'm so tired now!
Goodnight world!
Wattle – Floral Emblem of Australia
You have to try Vegemite!

- You may be smiling beforehand, but there were very few smiles afterwards.
Regular BBQs are an Integral Part of the Urunga Lions Club Activities
Assisting Another Lions Club in the Area is Very Common
Australian’s enjoy the ‘great outdoors’ and many clubs have taken responsibility for creating parks for people to gather for a barbeque.
• Youth enjoy a visit to Sydney and Australia’s most famous beach – Bondi!

• More than 1000km drive
• Australia has many fantastic beaches and Lions Clubs make use of them
Lion Omar Ramadan

District 352, Egypt
YCE Participant—2017, 2018
Host family adventure

Host family welcome in Turkey
YCE in Germany (2018)
Host family adventure

Host family welcome in Germany
Start of the youth camp in Turkey
Start of the youth camp in Germany
True friendship & a second family
Participating in country traditions

Traditional marriage in Turkey
Leo Lion Board Liaison
Ulrike “Ulli” Herrmann

District 111 NH, Germany
Host Family– 2012
Participant

- Camp Koala Australia 2011
- Camp Yukon & Alaska 2012
Organizer

- Camp 111N
- Camp 106C Leo

VIELEN DANK
Hosting makes waves

- Family involvement
- Longterm relationship
- Changing Lives

[Beaver Tails in Banff, Canada]
Thank You

Please reach out to youthexchange@lionsclubs.org with any questions, and for more information.