



## CRITERIA FOR PARTICIPATION IN SWISS SEMESTER

Swiss Semester:

**presumes familiarity with the program** and a desire to meet its expectations

grants considerable freedom based on an **assumption of self-discipline, maturity, trustworthiness and responsibility**

is **fast paced** and involves **considerable academic and physical challenge**

requires **activity** and **rigorous physical exercise** in the outdoors (hiking, climbing, skiing, etc.)

stresses **accountability** for actions (and inactions)

expects **sensitivity** to the rights of others and the group as a whole

encourages **good eating habits** (well balanced) during family style meals

emphasizes "**old fashioned**" **expectations regarding appropriate behavior and attire**, table manners, politeness, friendliness, electronics (no computers and telephones), etc.

The characteristics of Swiss Semester make it particularly appropriate for responsible, adventuresome, positive, energetic, and motivated students who are secure and mature enough to be able to take full advantage of the program's unique opportunities and to appreciate the need for limits to individual freedom.

**Above all, Swiss Semester students should be clear about what will be expected of them and be desirous of meeting those expectations.**

**Swiss Semester expects parents to be candid about any and all physical, academic, and emotional factors that may influence full and satisfactory participation in Swiss Semester.** It should be noted that few, if any, "issues" go unnoticed. Parents must update Swiss Semester as to any changes (emotional, physical, or medical) that occur post-acceptance and medical form completion.

Swiss Semester is **not** appropriate for:

those who require special medical, academic, or emotional attention or support

those with "learning disabilities" which would require special academic accommodation

those with emotional challenges

those who are dependent upon a computer (students do **not** have access to computers or internet)

those with physical limitations that prevent full participation in a strenuous outdoors program

those with strict dietary needs and who are not willing to "experiment"

those who are passive and lack energy

those who tend toward negativity and "whining"

those not prepared to work hard to make a special opportunity into the "experience of a lifetime."

those who have travelled to a Schengen country (much of Europe) within three months of the start of Swiss Semester without a Schengen country passport (for more information talk to Swiss Semester prior to making travel arrangements)