



2011 Summer Camp at Tibetan Children's Village, Dharamsala, India

The seat of His Holiness the Dalai Lama and the Tibetan Government-In-Exile, Dharamsala is the cultural and intellectual capital of the Tibetan exile community. It is also the headquarters of the Tibetan Children's Villages (TCV). It is where TCV in collaboration with the Office of Tibet in New York organizes the six-week Summer Camp for the Tibetan children brought up abroad.

Objectives of the program:

The primary goal of the camp is to provide the Tibetan students with an opportunity to immerse themselves into Tibetan culture. The specific objectives of the camp are:

- To enable Tibetan students living abroad to learn Tibetan language, culture, history and the basic principles of Buddhism.
- To help them to experience first hand the Tibetan exile community in India through visits and interaction with TCV students.
- To enable them to get a better sense of understanding and appreciation of the Tibetan cause and aspirations.

Last year's experience:

In 2010, a total of 79 elementary and high school Tibetan students from abroad attended the Summer Camp. Among them there were 56 from the United States, 8 from Canada, 11 from Switzerland, 2 from Austria and one each from France and Italy.

Commenting on the camp, 70 participants of last year's camp said that attending the camp was worthwhile and that they knew more about the Central Tibetan Administration and facilities available at the Tibetan Children's Village after attending the camp; 69 said the camp made them feel proud of being Tibetans, improved their Tibetan language, and encouraged them to attend the camp in future; 67 said they greatly enjoyed the music and dance classes as well as Buddhism classes; and 65 said the camp helped them to become a better person.

Program schedule and events:

Of the six weeks, the camp participants spend five weeks at TCV, where they attend regular classes in Tibetan language, history, culture and traditions, current Tibetan situation, and Buddhism and Values. In order to make learning more effective, the participants are divided into two groups—beginners and advanced. The classes are conducted by the TCV faculty and guest speakers.

In addition, the camp participants explore life at several TCV schools in and around Dharamsala as well as the functioning of the Tibetan administration-in-exile. They also enjoy a wonderful presentation of Tibetan performing art by the local artists. So far, the camp participants had an opportunity to seek a special audience separately with His Holiness the Dalai Lama and Gyalwang Karmapa, and to have close interaction with Kalon Tripa Samdhong Rinpoche.

After the five-week stay at TCV, the camp participants undertake an excursion to Rewalsar (Tso Pema), the legendary land associated with Guru Padmasambhava.

The Summer Camp starts on Sunday, July 3rd, 2011 and ends on August 7th 2011. An excursion to Tso Pema commences immediately after this date.

Please note that parents and relatives are not encouraged to withdraw the participating students before the completion of five-week program at the TCV. Those who withdraw will not be issued the Certificate of the completion of the Program.



SPECIAL NOTE : The TCV is, once again, planning to organize a separate camp at the TCV Ladakh for those students who have already attended Summer Camp at TCV Dharamsala earlier.

Eligibility:

The Summer Camp is restricted to the Tibetan school going students aged 10 to 19.

Accommodation:

The accommodation for the participants is arranged in different homes of the Tibetan Children’s Village and not more than two students are accommodated in one home together. This arrangement is made to facilitate students to improve their spoken Tibetan language.

Rain Gear:

Since the monsoon season is in full swing during the time of camp, the parents are requested to include a complete rain gears (raincoat, boots, umbrella etc) in the packing list.

Travel Arrangement

The parents are requested to make the travel arrangements of the camp participants (flight booking and visa to India) well ahead of time. The parents should take full responsibility in this regard. In order to seek Indian visa, the parents need to seek a visa invitation from the Tibetan Children’s village. In this regard, the parents can write to Mr. Thupten Dorjee at thuptend@gmail.com

Those participating students requiring air-port pick-up and drop off should notify the organizers well ahead of the time, so that a proper arrangement could be made.

Program Cost:

The total program cost is US\$350 per student. This includes board and lodging, stationary, teaching materials, site visits, excursion, and travel from Delhi to Dharamsala and back. Please note that the program cost doesn’t include air-ticket to India and back, which needs to be borne separately by the parents.

Registration Dateline

The registration for the 2011 Summer Camp at the Tibetan Children’s Village opens from January 15th and ends on May 15th, 2011. Please note that the final registration date is May 15th 2011.

The interested candidates from North America should submit the registration forms along with the check for US\$350 to the following address. Please note that the check should be drawn in favor of the *Office of Tibet* with a note “TCV Summer Camp”.

Tsewang Phuntso
Office of Tibet
241 East 32nd Street
New York, NY 10016
Email: phuntso@igc.org

Those from other countries should contact:
Summer Camp Coordinator
Tibetan Children’s Village
Dharamsala Cantt, District Kangra
H.P. 176 216, India
Email: tcvsummercamp@yahoo.com
headoffice@tcv.org.in



REGISTRATION FORM - TCV SUMMER CAMP 2011

Name _____

Date of Birth _____

Sex (Male/Female) _____

Grade _____

Freshman or Returnee _____

Father's Name _____

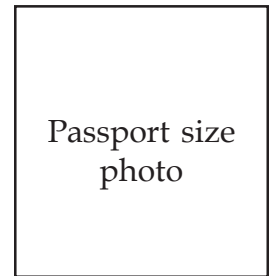
Mother's Name _____

Address _____

Contact Phone _____ Home _____

Email address _____

Returnee _____ Yes/No If yes, would you like to attend the camp at Ladakh TCV _____ Yes/No



KNOWLEDGE OF TIBETAN LANGUAGE (Please tick or circle)

- | | | | |
|-------------|-----------|------|------|
| a) Speaking | very good | Good | Poor |
| b) Reading | Very good | Good | Poor |
| c) Writing | Very good | Good | Poor |

SPECIAL INFORMATION

a) Current medication, if any _____

b) Allergies, if any _____

c) Dietary restrictions, if any _____

I understand that the Tibetan Children's Village and Office of Tibet will take utmost care of my child during the study program. However, if unforeseen tragedy strikes, I will take full responsibility. I will also authorize the Tibetan Children's Village to give medical treatment/care to the child, if required

Signature of the Parents _____

Date _____