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# THE INTERNATIONAL YOUTH CAMP



COL·LEGI SANT IGNASI DE SARRIÀ

THE BARCELONA'92 INTERNATIONAL YOUTH CAMP (IYC) OFFERS YOUNG PEOPLE FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD A SPACE FOR CULTURAL AND SPORTING EXCHANGE WITH THE AIM OF FOMENTING AN UNDERSTANDING OF CULTURES AND ENCOURAGING RESPECT FOR AND A SENSE OF BELONGING TO THE WORLD COMMUNITY.

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**A**t the end of last century, when the the idea of recovering the Olympics began to gather momentum and the traditional regular celebration of the Games was renewed, there was much talk of the “Olympic spirit” as the essence of the attitudes and values it was hoped would be born again. This “spirit”, inspired in values ascribed to the Greek world, which was so admired at that time, is characterized by two basic elements. On one hand, the conviction that sport is not just a physical activity, so much as, more than anything, an educational activity: sport

foments moral values (respect, team spirit, the spirit of achievement, etc.) and favours the integral development of the individual (“mens sana in corpore sano”). At the same time, the emphasis is placed on the universality of the Olympic Games: over and above races, borders and ideologies, people from all over the world can meet and understand each other through sport. Although the practical application of these ideals has not been free of contradictions, the “Olympic spirit” has been the origin of certain activities such as, for example, the International Youth Camps.

The first International Youth Camp was held in 1912, when King Gustav of Sweden invited 1,500 scouts to pitch camp beside the Olympic Stadium. In subsequent editions of the Games the tradition was kept up and eligibility extended to young people in general. The general objective of the IYCs has, from the very beginning, been to open a forum in which young people from all over the world can meet and live together, alongside the celebration of the sporting events. The IYCs held so far have been as follows:



CITY	YEAR	COUNTRIES	NUMBER	TYPE	AGES
Stockholm	1912	4	1,200	Scouts	12-18
Berlin	1936	23	700	Students	15-18
Helsinki	1952	17	3,000	Young people	16-22
Rome	1960	5	1,250	–	14-18
Tokyo	1964	23	1,018	–	15-25
Mexico	1968	19	819	–	15-25
Munich*	1972	45	1,514	–	17-20
Montreal	1976	44	907	–	17-20
Moscow	1980	54	1,085	–	?
Seoul	1988	43	882	221 Koreans	18-22

\* As well as the IYC, an international students camp was held at Munich and a young rowers camp at Kiel, gathering 418 young people between 20 and 25, and 264 athletes, respectively.

Since 1968, a recommendation to celebrate the International Youth Camp has figured in Rule 1 of the Olympic Charter. The text establishes the following aspects:

- The participants must be between 18 and 22 years of age.
- The young people will be selected by their respective national Olympic committees, on the basis of their sporting or civic merits.
- The number of participants will vary

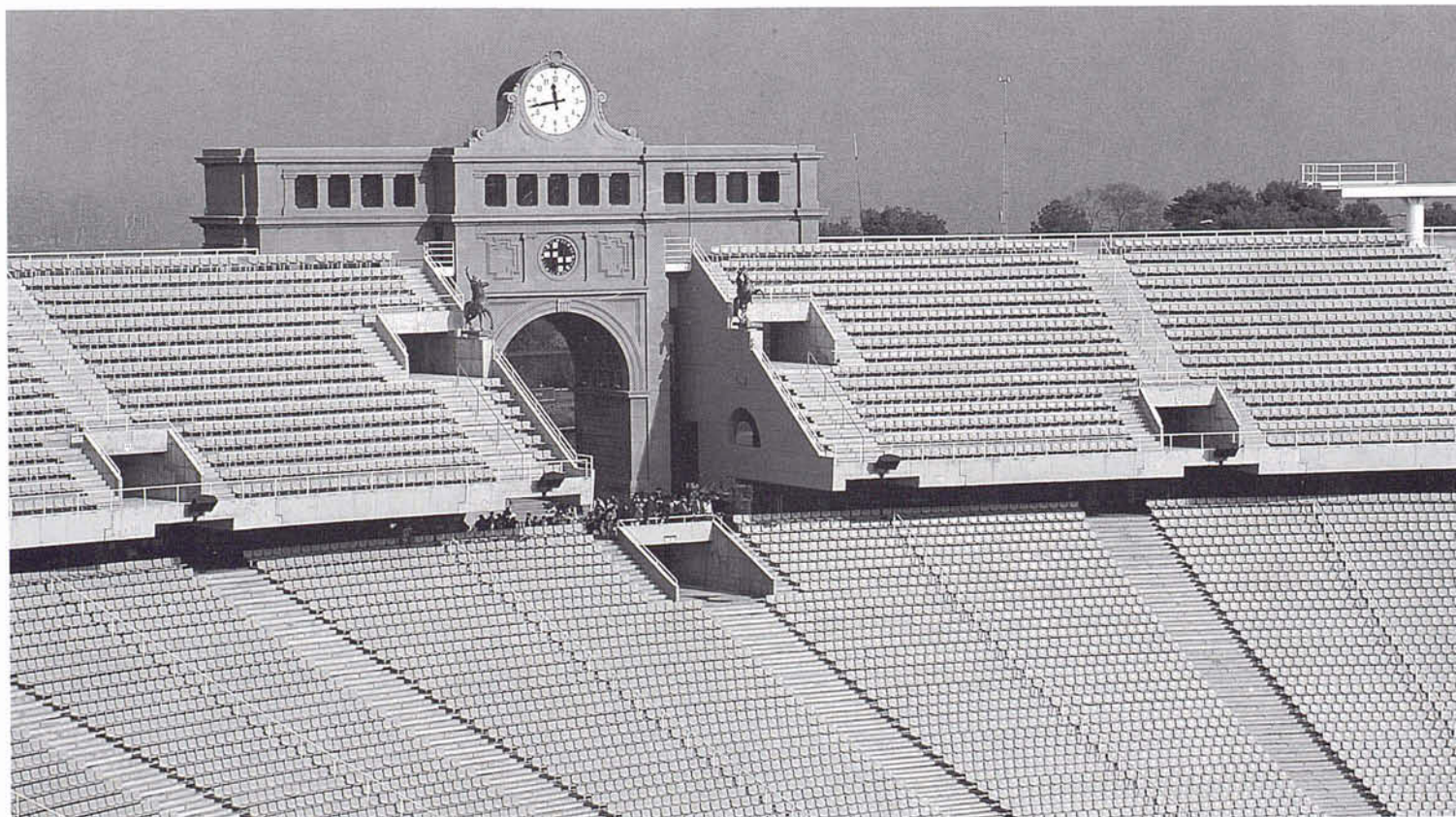
between a minimum of 500 and a maximum of 1,500.

- The duration of the camp will not be less than the total duration of the Olympic Games nor greater than 30 days. The camp will coincide with the celebration of the Games.
- Men and women will be housed separately and in satisfactory conditions of comfort and hygiene.
- The camp will form part of the Olympic precinct; it may not, therefore, con-

tain any political, racial, religious or advertising propaganda.

- The camp programme will include activities of a sporting, cultural and traditional nature. The participants may attend some of the Olympic competitions and the cultural manifestations organised on the occasion of the Games free of charge.

(Applicable texts, appendix III of the Olympic Charter)



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### The Barcelona IYC

Barcelona's original application included the proposal to organise an international youth camp along the lines of previous editions of the Olympic Games and linked to the tradition of our youth movements.

The Barcelona International Youth Camp will be held from 23 July to 10 August 1992 on the premises of the Col·legi Sant Ignasi dels Jesuïtes, in Sarrià, which will be conditioned as a youth hostel, and will be attended by some 550 young people between the ages of 18 and 21.

The IYC offers young people from all over the world a space for cultural and sporting exchange, with the aim of fomenting a mutual understanding of cultures and of encouraging respect for and a sense of belonging to the world community. Cultural exchange is the basis of the IYC and should impregnate all its activities.

There are two sides to this cultural exchange: exchange between the participants and of the participants with the young people of our country. Both the organisation and the contents of the programme of activities centre around this principal objective. As regards the organisation of the Camp, we are collaborating closely with the youth clubs in

the preparation of a large part of the Camp activities. As regards the contents of the programme, the activities foreseen are different ways of facilitating and carrying out cultural exchange: the practice of local sports, workshops in cookery from different parts of the world, a forum for the debate of international problems, etc.

### Invitation to take part

For the IYC 170 countries belonging to the Olympic movement have been invited. Each country has been assigned a participation quota according to its demographic and sporting weight and participation in previous IYCs. The Olym-

pic Committees will select their delegation following criteria of ethnic and social representativity, linguistic ability and a balance between the numbers of men and women.

In some countries it is traditional to organise large-scale publicity campaigns for the selection of the delegation: television competitions, youth "Olympiads", youth activities, etc. Some even get their delegation together beforehand to prepare its participation in the Camp.

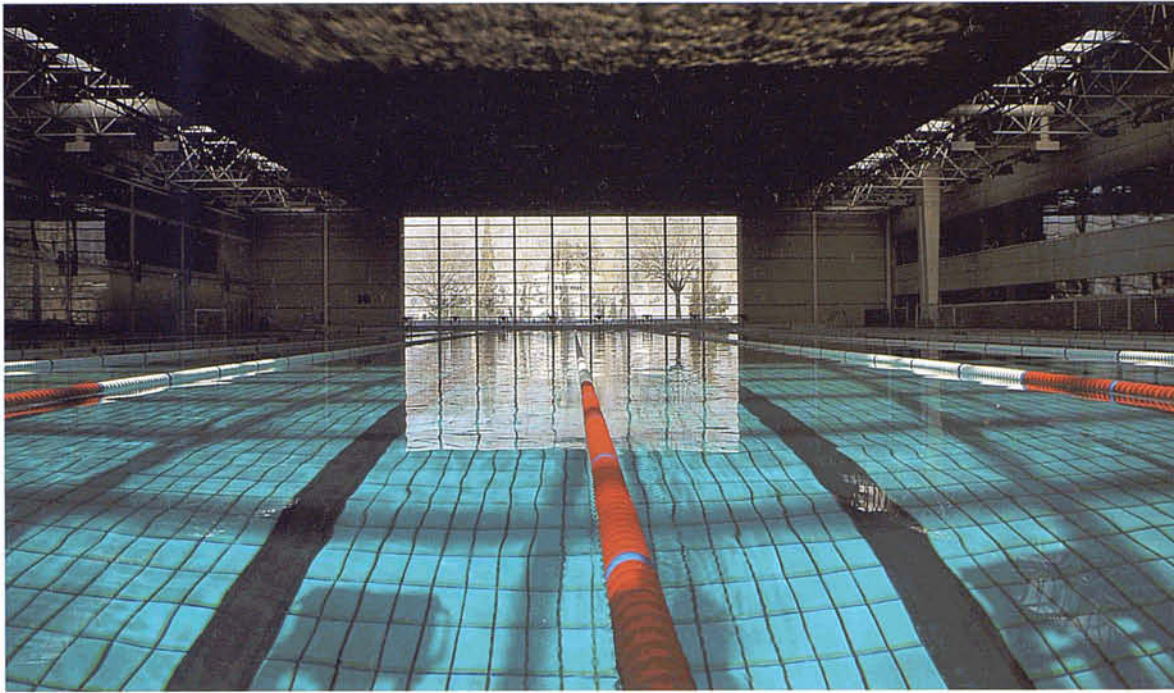
### Activities and services

The IYC is the place where the young participants will live and coexist. There will therefore be a series of services aimed at making their stay and their daily routine agreeable: dining-room, library, record library, games room with computer games, information centre, discotheque, bars and sports facilities. A press team will be responsible for the running of the Camp's internal communications media: a closed-circuit television and a multilingual newspaper.

In response to environmental problems, an environment programme has been set up which includes the selective collection of the Camp's refuse, an information and awareness campaign for participants and the theoretical treatment of this issue in the "forum".







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As regards the activities, the central nucleus of the camp, active participation is encouraged on the part of the young people: they are the Camp's protagonists. A wide range of activities will be offered, bearing in mind the diversity of languages, cultures and interests among the participants.

Most of the activities (workshops, sports, cultural activities) will take place in the grounds of the Camp; in some of them young people from the city and the country will take part. Some activities, though, will take place outside the Camp (Catalan festival at Vilanova i la Geltrú, open youth encounter at Montserrat, amongst others), so as to encourage exchange between the young people and provide them with a first-hand knowledge of our country.

The programme of activities includes the following sections:

**Festivals:** recreational and participative expression of intercultural elements, of the life of the Camp and of the festive elements of our country.

**Sports activities:** The recreational, cultural and participative element prevails over competition. There will be local sports, friendly competitions, sports workshops and exhibitions of and participation in little-known sports.

**Attendance at the Games:** Participants will be able to attend some events, either attending independently or by taking part in activities that include entrance to the Games (excursions, sports competitions, workshops).

**Workshops:** Spaces for technical courses, in connection with the rest of the Camp activities: press, music and dance, cookery, popular festivals, etc.

**Visits and excursions:** In small groups, a daily offer of visits and excursions to get to know Barcelona and Catalonia. From 31 July to 2 August there will be a general outing of three days, in which the participants, distributed over twelve itineraries, will discover the

most representative areas of Catalonia. **Cultural activities:** Exhibitions, film and video cycles, concerts and youth forum. The nucleus will be the forum, a space for debate in which young people from Barcelona will also take part and where the objectives of the Camp will be dealt with explicitly and at length: strengthening of the world community awareness, discovery of the unequal interdependence between the various parts of the world and the unavoidable need for collaboration. Parallel to the forum there will be a cycle of films on the theme of: "The cinema, a window on the world", which will show various cultural areas of the world we live in.

**Visits to young people's homes in the city:** Those young people who wish to will be able to spend one or two days in the home of a young person from Barcelona or the surrounding area and get to know his world, his family, etc.

As organisers of the Camp, we feel that the fact of 550 young people from so many different countries living together for three weeks is immensely valuable, especially bearing in mind the cultural diversity of the participants, and we would like to make the most of this privileged space for mutual exchange and learning that is the International Youth Camp. ■

