A letter to CONNECT

Hello Amanda Parks and Josef Azizi,

I would really appreciate to join into The International Youth Camp CONNECT, and I want to spend three weeks together with the young people from all over the world. It is simply because I want to know about others' lives and trying to understand how others think.

My name is Mo, I am 15 years old, and I come from Sweden. I am a student, and currently I am in secondary school. I am an extrovert teenager, and I like socializing. In my free time, I spend a lot of time with my friends. I also like to experience other cultures because it is both very interesting and I can learn something new, and I want also to know about others’ lifestyles. (… and I am also curious at lifestyles of others).

The reason of joining this camp is that I want to broaden my view and learn about other cultures. It is extremely important to learn international understanding, because in the future, I can avoid misunderstandings and cultural gaps. Nowadays, I don’t have much experience, and my view is very narrow. All my daily life limits my mind, and I want new events coming into my mind. It can be very beneficial, the number of arguments could be reduced, with international understanding.

In the camp, I think there are a huge variety of activities to do. Some of the activities can be discussing about important topics, which can be about favourite interests, movies, music and other things. I think this will be meaningful because I can know how others have for entertainment, and I can try to communicate about it. Cultures can also be discussed, and everyone can try to know about it. For example, there are a lot of holidays in Sweden, like the “midsummer” when people dance “smågrudor”, and “Fettisdagen” when people eat “semlor”. Other topics referring to school could also be mentioned, for example in Sweden, students don’t wear school uniforms and the teachers are more like friends. School lives to students are not so strict in Sweden than in other countries.

There are some issues to discuss, and we could learn more about the camp. I can discuss about a lot of problems worldwide, like the environmental problems, violence, economic gaps, war and violence. For example, in war topic, everyone can discuss about their opinion on the current Russian-Ukraine war and talk about everyone’s own opinion and perspective about it. Maybe, everyone would say that Russia is doing something bad and is starting a world-wide conflict. Maybe there are other perspective about it I never had thought before. I think that everyone can talk about their opinion, and everyone is trying to understand about others’ opinions, so that everyone can agree on a common opinion (reach common agreement).

A camp like this can lead into a bright future, because if everyone can understand each other, there wouldn’t be any of the culture gaps. No one would think that some people are doing anything strange and crazy. One day maybe there wouldn’t be any racism in the society, and there will be no trace of segregations. Everyone can share their ideas and opinion, and diversity drives the society forward.

This is the reason why I want to join this camp, and I would really like to spend three weeks with other teenagers around the world and trying to understand each other.

Best regards, Mo