

YOUTH'S BIG ROLE IN BRITISH FESTIVAL

Young people in Britain are by no means content to leave the organisation of this year's Festival entirely to their elders. They have drawn up their own programme of events, many of which are now in operation.

They are lighting throughout England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland such fires as once betokened a great victory. And they are leading neighbors, old and young in singing traditional songs.

All Britain's youth organisations are welcoming their opposite numbers throughout the world and many of their local branches have decided that their best contribution to the Festival will be to provide accommodation for as many young visitors as they can.

Many Groups

A great number of national organisations, too, banded together in what is known as the standing conference of national voluntary youth organisations, have set up a Festival Centre of Youth in the bombed Church of St. Anne's in Soho, in central London. Here young people from overseas are able to meet members of the youth organisations and are put in touch with those people and activities in which they are most interested.

Scouts from over 30 countries are being offered hospitality in the homes of London scouts during the Festival, and will afterwards take part in the great camp at Gilwell Park.

Two thousand members of another young people's organisation, the Boys' Brigade, are staging a marathon camp which will end with the presentation in Buckingham Palace, London, of a message of loyalty to King George VI.

Speaking Contest

There is also a public speaking competition, organised by the Co-operative Youth, for all

young people in Britain. Preliminary trials are taking place all over the United Kingdom and finals will be held in London in June.

The young visitor may be equally interested in some of the international sporting events arranged for the Festival. A series of football matches, for instance,

of football matches, for instance, have taken place this month.

As cricket enthusiasts may already know, the South Africans are visiting Britain for a series of test matches during the Festival.

There are air races, archery championships, athletic championship meetings, an international cycling rally at York, in the north of England, international hockey matches between England, Belgium, Holland and France, junior tennis championships, as well as the famous Wimbledon tournaments, yachting, swimming, motor racing . . . It would indeed be difficult to think of any recognised sport which young people cannot watch during the Festival of Britain if they are so minded.



This scene from the annual regatta at Marlow on Thames typifies the English summer scene, a scene given greater significance this year by Britain's great festival.