



Euroventure

SPONSOR TRAINING

About EUROVENTURE

What is Euroventure?

Euroventure is a weeklong Christian youth summer camp held by the International Baptist Convention (IBC). Euroventure is an English speaking, international youth camp with students from all over the world gathering for a week of discipleship, learning, fun, activities and rest. Most campers speak English fluently, with many speaking 2 or more languages. Euroventure draws students (aged 12 - 18) living mainly in Europe including but not limited to: International church youth groups, European nationals, US military kids, expat kids, missionary kids and their friends.

Who leads Euroventure?

The IBC Youth Team trains and leads Euroventure with the help of various other churches and leaders across Europe and the US. Adults and college-age students lead the small group bible studies and recreation time. The IBC Youth Team train and lead each sponsor to serve at camp.

What is the Euroventure schedule?

The daily camp schedule includes Bible studies, team recreation, track times, morning and evening worship services, afternoon activities, team competitions, etc.



Where is Euroventure located?

Camp is held each year in beautiful Grindelwald, Switzerland. Euroventure rents out the entire 'Downtown Lodge,' a youth hostel that formerly served as Swiss Army Barracks. Grindelwald is a small Alpine resort town, southwest of Zurich.

Who do I contact for more information?

You can contact the youth team directly at: youthteam@ibc-churches.org.

Role OF THE SPONSOR

Servant

The first role of each Euroventure Sponsor is that of a servant. Jesus told his disciples in Matthew 20.28, "...the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many." Just as Jesus came to this world to serve us, we come to Euroventure to serve the students.

This means that our attitudes should always be that of a servant. When we see a need such as a student who needs help, another sponsor struggling with a task, or trash that needs to be picked up, we meet those needs joyfully. Sometimes you will serve by encouraging a student during a bible study. Other times you will serve by respecting the decisions of the leadership. As each sponsor maintains a servant attitude, we will lead with gentleness and humility, encouraging the students as Christ encourages us.

Teammate

The second role of the Euroventure sponsor is that of a teammate. God does not expect us to serve him in isolation. David relied on his friend Jonathan to help him in his troubles. Jesus sent the disciples out two by two to spread the good news. Paul partnered with Barnabas and Silas on his missionary journeys. Just as scripture teaches us to partner with others for the mission of Christ, so also we sponsors partner as teammates during Euroventure.

One way we partner together is never being alone with a student. It is required that groups be no smaller than three, including at least one sponsor. You may speak one on one with a student at a distance so as to not be heard, but you must always have a clear sight line to another sponsor for accountability.

Another way we partner together is by sharing the load of leadership. During Euroventure, you will not be able to do everything, all the time. You will need time to slow down and rest. Therefore, be intentional about sharing the load. Rotate who leads the bible studies in your small group. Listen to others and take their words seriously. Be willing to work in the background for one activity to give someone else a chance to connect with students. Be a team player at all times.

Leader

The third role of the Euroventure sponsor is that of a leader. As a sponsor, you are in a place of authority at camp. Paul told Timothy, "Don't let anyone think less of you because you are young. Be an example to all believers in what you say, in the way you live, in your love, your faith, and your purity" (1 Timothy 4.12). At Euroventure, we should lead by example. This means that as we encourage students to know and grow in Christ, we should provide great examples of this with our leadership.

Being a leader does not mean you should do whatever you want. It means following the rules laid out in this training. It means loving students, even when they are difficult. It means arriving on time to various activities with your group. It means setting the standard of godliness to ensure everyone has a great camp. Lead by example in what you say, the way you live, in your love, your faith and your purity.

Witness

The final and most important role of each Euroventure sponsor is that of a witness. Peter commended the church, "...you must worship Christ as Lord of your life. And if someone asks about your hope as a believer, always be ready to explain it" (1 Peter 3.15). This is perhaps one of the most rewarding things about Euroventure; the nations come together, providing us a unique opportunity to be witnesses for Christ.

This means that we want you prepared to share the gospel and your personal testimony in a short 2-3 minutes at any time. We will walk you through a few simple steps of preparation later in this training to prepare you for this privilege. Every conversation, interaction, and activity are not an end in themselves, but an opportunity for you to share the love of Christ with students. Look for ways to work the gospel into your conversations. Be witnesses for Christ while at camp.

Cultural

SENSITIVITY TRAINING

Learning the third cultural lifestyle

Being an international summer camp, Euroventure is unique in its culture. Euroventure draws students and leaders of international backgrounds from all over the world. The majority of people attending Euroventure are living outside of their country of origin. Therefore, this camp has a distinct third culture flare.

Perhaps you've heard the term 'Third Culture Kid' (TCK) which refers to people raised in a culture other than their parents' or the culture of the country named on their passport for a significant part of their early development years (Pollock and Van Reken, *Third Culture Kids*). Therefore, the culture of Euroventure is neither European, nor American, it is international!

On average, Euroventure is made up of about 40% American youth living in Europe either for military, government work, or international business, 40% European youth often living away from their country of origin, and 20% students from anywhere else in the world. Questions like, 'Where are you from,' or 'What is your nationality,' should be substituted with, 'Where is the coolest place you've lived,' or 'How many languages do you speak?' It would be good for you to do some further reading on third culture kids at the following link:

<http://www.bbc.com/capital/story/20161117-third-culture-kids-citizens-of-everywhere-and-nowhere>

Respecting culture and customs as 'different' not 'wrong'

Often you will see students doing things that are culturally different from what you are used to. Football is a good example. To some, football refers to the American style football game. But to most at Euroventure, football refers to 'soccer,' which happens to be the most popular sport in the world. It is important when you experience something culturally different, that you not label it as wrong, but instead different. This is a good opportunity to learn and share different perspectives and build relationships with youth.

A note, please use discernment in these areas. For example, a male student may say it's their 'culture' to kiss every girl on the lips as a greeting. This is not a cultural norm for the students at Euroventure. Do not allow the excited male student to kiss all the girls on the lips. This is wrong.

Looks can be deceiving (not every white student is an American)

At Euroventure, looks can be deceiving. While many students may speak perfect English, and look like an average American, that is not always the case. Often students learn English as a second or third language and speak it quite well. Therefore, do not assume the culture of students you are speaking to. Ask them what church they attend, and ask them to share about their background to gain a better understanding of each student.

Finding cultural middle ground

In many ways, the best way to relate to a new culture is to find a cultural middle ground. Use your knowledge of music, fashion, family or experiences to connect with students. Find each student's interest and connect with them by listening, providing eye contact, and sharing from your experience in a relatable way.

When in doubt, speak to a Euroventure team member

Often navigating cultures can be a challenging and overwhelming task. If for any reason you are not sure of how to respond to a given situation, speak with a Euroventure team member immediately. Euroventure team members include: Jeremy Woods (team leader), Alaina Holland, Loren Holland, Brian Kirby, Suanlian Tonsing, Judith Lynn Maxwell, and Taylor Whitley.

Developing YOUR TESTIMONY

Sharing the Gospel

Who is Jesus, what did he do, why does it matter? The ability to share the gospel with students at Euroventure is an essential part of serving as a sponsor. In the section on being a witness, we read 1 Peter 3:15 which states, "And if someone asks about your hope as a believer, always be ready to explain it." This means you should prepare a simple gospel presentation that you can use as a base for gospel conversations at any time during camp.

Many of you have taken time to develop this in your personal evangelism. If so, please use this prior training to share the gospel with the youth. Others of you might want some help, or even a new way to witness. My favorite way of creating a gospel conversation is with three simple questions: Who is Jesus? What did he do? Why does it matter? Let's walk through our answers to these questions.

First, who is Jesus?

Jesus is the son of God who came to take away the sin of the world. Scriptures such as John 3:16, and John 14:6 are great texts that explain this truth in different ways.

Second, what did he do?

Jesus lived a perfect life, died a death that we deserved to pay the price for our sins, was resurrected from the grave, ascended into heaven, and is coming again soon. I love texts like 1 Corinthians 15:3-8 and Philippians 2:5-11 that explain in detail what Jesus did.

Third, why does it matter?

Jesus matters because in him, we receive grace and the forgiveness of sins. Texts like Romans 10:9-10 and Acts 2:37-39 give a clear picture of this truth.

Here are some important principles for this method of sharing the gospel

First, it is a conversation starter, not a memorized script. Don't read try and read this conversation from a piece of paper when you're speaking with students.

Second, have the scriptural answers for each question so that you can quickly recall them in any conversation. Study them between now and camp so that you can put them in both your head and heart.

Third, focus on the big picture of each answer; don't get lost in the details of soteriology or hamartiology. If you don't know what those words mean, don't worry about it. They are important but intricate details, not the big picture.

Fourth, contextualize your answers to each student. If you have a student struggling with self worth, answer those three questions showing that in Jesus, we are of true value to God. If you have a student who is trapped in a specific sin, share with them how Jesus can not only take away their sin, but also give them new life in him.

Fifth, take advantage of every opportunity. Euroventure is an expressly Christian camp. Don't be afraid to have loving and direct conversations with students about Jesus.

Developing YOUR TESTIMONY

Sharing your testimony

Who I was before Christ, who I am in Christ. Along with sharing the gospel, sharing your testimony is a great vehicle for creating a gospel conversation. There are three important principles for sharing your testimony.

First, be honest.

Don't lie or inflate your testimony in hopes of being more effective. God gave you your story for a reason. Trust that the Spirit can work through your experience to move others toward Christ.

Second, keep it simple.

Too often Christian testimonies are too long and get lost in the details. Most people won't take time to listen to the details of the argument you had with your ex-boyfriend or a daily description of your mission trip to Honduras. Just like sharing the gospel, keep the big picture in mind as you share your testimony. I like to be prepared to share anywhere from 30 seconds to 5 minutes max.

Third, perhaps the best way to break up your testimony is by sharing about your life before Christ, and now your life in Christ.

For example: Before Christ, I was happy but knew that something was missing. I woke up each day uncertain of what would happen to me after death. I craved meaning and hope. In Christ, I have found true joy that is not based on my circumstances. I now wake up certain that God is in control. I have meaning and hope in the mission of Jesus today.