



OUR CHALET

ANNUAL REPORT 2024
BY TANYA TULLOCH



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OUR YEAR IN NUMBERS



GUIDING AND SCOUTING GUESTS

1,530 in 2024, 783 independent guests and 619 programme guests.

Representing 40 countries: Argentina, Australia, Burundi, Brazil, Bahamas, Canada, China Costa Rica, Chile, Denmark, Finland, Ghana, Great Britain, Germany, Guatemala, Hong Kong, India, Iran, Ireland, Italy, Lebanon, Luxemburg, Japan, Madagascar, Mexico, Netherland, New Zealand, Northern Ireland, Poland, Philippine, Portugal, Senegal, South Africa, Sweden, Switzerland, Sri Lanka, Tunisia, Ukraine, US, Venezuela.



EVENTS DELIVERED IN 2024

16 events led by Our Chalet, plus one event co-led with USAGSO.



VOLUNTEERS

53 full season volunteers from 30 different countries.



DAY VISITORS

We also welcomed 2,181 day visitors for self-guided tours, guided tours, and pinning ceremonies.



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OUR PROGRAMMES



EVENTS

Our Chalet runs challenging, fun, outdoor-focused youth programmes year round. Our programmes are designed to encourage girls and young women from around the world to connect with nature and their outdoor environment, develop their social and leadership skills, and try a wide range of active pursuits to find the one that sparks their interest. Due to school term times, June through to August is our peak season, with around 550 youth taking part across our eight summer events. Our summer programme features three events – Discover, Explore, and Adventure – designed to offer increasing levels of physically challenging outdoor activities for Guides and Scouts aged 11-18. This means our programme is open to all abilities and there is an option for progression for groups who would like to visit us more than once or stay for two events.

While these months are our busiest, December through to March is also a popular time for groups to take part in one of our programmes and experience the true magic of the Swiss Alps – the snowy season! Our ‘winter’ programmes are more flexible, offering opportunities for groups with younger and older members and families the opportunity to join us on an event. The focus on developing skills through outdoor activities remains the same and we head outside whatever the weather!

From sledding to kayaking in dry suits, we’ve also kept the focus on inclusive and exciting activities that encourage everyone to take on a new challenge. In 2024 Our Chalet delivered a total of 16 events , plus one event co-led with USAGSO. This reached over 600 Girls Guides and Girl Scouts.

March 2024 saw the post pandemic comeback of the Helen Storrow Seminar. This year the theme was Sustainable Outdoor Adventure and the planning team worked to make sure that the participants really got to experience what Switzerland has to offer in this area by visiting places like the Aletsch Glacier, the UN and botanical garden in Geneva and a kayaking adventure on lake Brienz. Through all of this they got to see sustainable recreation in action as they worked on their back home impact project plans. Thanks to your generous donations we were able to offer scholarships to young women, aged 18-25, from every WAGGGS region to take part.

Busy New Year's Break: This event is back to pre-pandemic numbers of guests. The mix of guests is from families with young children to groups of young people and older couples. The intergenerational group participated in outdoor and indoor activities and celebrated meeting people from around the world as they rang in the new year.



VOLUNTEERS AT OUR CHALET

Our Chalet would not be the same without the hard work and dedication of our volunteers. Thanks to your generous donations we are able to support volunteers from all the WAGGGS regions to take part in our volunteer leadership placements. This year, we were lucky to have volunteers from 30 different countries around the world.

- 53 full-season volunteers helped us keep things running smoothly:**
- 39 General Volunteers: Helped with many different tasks, from supporting activities to maintaining the chalet.
 - 5 Guest Services Specialists: Focused on making sure our guests felt welcome and comfortable.
 - 5 Programme Specialists: Led and organized the activities for our visitors.
 - 3 Marketing & Communication Specialists: Helped us share our story with the world.
 - 1 Kitchen Specialist: Ensured everyone was well-fed with nutritious meals, and amazing cakes.
 - 3 short-term volunteers who provided additional support when we needed it the most.

Countries Represented by Volunteers:
Our volunteers came from all over the world, representing the five WAGGGS (World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts) regions:

- Africa Region:
 - Ghana, Kenya, Malawi, Nigeria, Rwanda, South Africa, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia, Zimbabwe
- Asia Pacific Region:
 - Australia, Hong Kong, New Zealand, Philippines, Singapore, Sri Lanka
- Europe Region:
 - Denmark, Germany, Ireland, Sweden, United Kingdom
- Western Hemisphere Region:
 - Argentina, Canada, Chile, Costa Rica, Mexico, Peru, Panama, Paraguay, USA
- Arab Region:
 - Tunisia

Their enthusiasm and hard work have made a big difference in keeping Our Chalet a happy and welcoming place for everyone.





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OUR OPERATIONS

STAFFING &

STAFF DEVELOPMENT

Sandi, from Myanmar, joined us in April in the Office Coordinator role as Dawn moved on to new adventures.

In May, we switched from having a bookkeeper employed, to having a company contracted for the bookkeeping work.

World Centre Programme Staff Enrichment: Programme staff and World Centre Managers came to Our Chalet from the other centres so that we could receive training from the Core Mission Team on the WAGGGS programme framework, discuss ideas and issues and share in the spirit of Guiding and Scouting at Our Chalet. This time together has given us some tools we can use to better explain the impact of our work in the future. We will work more on this remotely during the next 6 months.

First Aid Training: All staff received First Aid training to ensure we are ready to respond to any emergencies. In addition, three staff with more past first aid experience became first aid trainers. This was a great opportunity for staff development that will impact future teams at Our Chalet as we now can offer training to all staff and volunteers in the future.



STAFFING &

STAFF DEVELOPMENT

A few other pieces of news:

August 1st at KISC: Three volunteers went to help out at Kandersteg International Scout Centre (KISC) for the 1 August celebrations and World Scout Scarf Day and to promote Our Chalet with an activity booth for around 1800 Scouts/Guides.

OCF (Our Chalet Foundation): OCF welcomed new members this year in April and gave them a meeting they won't easily forget. Right as the meeting was supposed to be starting the power for the whole valley of Adelboden went out. This meant that all of the information stored online, the members who were planning to join by video chat, and the lights were all unavailable. Luckily, a few people had print outs and the meeting was able to proceed as there was a quorum present on-site. The Chalet staff quickly changed the food options for the day to no-cook options or things they could prepare on the BBQ and the meeting went on without any other issues.



FACILITIES

Path Resurfacing: We resurfaced and widened the path to the kitchen and veranda, making it more easily and safely accessible for those using mobility equipment and strollers.

Squirrel House: A new shower was added to the lower bathroom in Squirrel House. Access to the bathroom was made from inside the house and both bathrooms had the flooring, walls, and finishings update. In addition, the area around the house was dug out and new drainage added to reduce standing water against the foundation.

Storm Damage and Repair: A storm caused some trees to fall down, but there was no damage to buildings. Staff and volunteers used the wood from the fallen trees to make new benches and create a new campfire circle.

Ready, Steady, Go: We hosted "Ready, Steady, Go" where 14 volunteers from the UK, USA, Canada, Germany, Australia, Ireland, and Ukraine helped prepare Our Chalet for the busy season.

We aren't planning any really large project for 2025, but we will have the lightning protection on the buildings improved to meet new standards.

Also, we are excited to have the Ready Steady Go event come and help us with clearing brush on some of the property, paint some walls, chop some wood, sew some needed items, clean out the attics and more!





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2025 AND BEYOND



WHAT TO LOOK OUT FOR IN 2025

Our Chalet is excited to host another Helen Storrow Seminar in February of 25 where 30 young women aged 18-25 from 30 different countries will experience leadership development, global connection and learning. This year's theme is Food Sustainability and the participants back home change projects that will cover topics like food waste reduction, alternative food packaging, or cooking classes for local and seasonal food. This event is also a great opportunity for Our Chalet to connect with our local community such as the local biogas centre and the town government.

This event is not possible without the team behind it. This year we have 1 x Lead Facilitator and 4 x Facilitators who are all aged 18-30 and together represent the five WAGGS regions. They are on their own learning journeys as part of the International Facilitation Training Programme, and this HSS event is an opportunity for them to practice their learning design and session delivery skills.

In addition to the team currently at Our Chalet, there is also a team of Mentors who will be supporting participants when they return home to carry out their change projects. As well as two Communications Volunteers who are working closely with the Our Chalet Marketing & Communications Intern to share all of the fun experiences participants are having during the event with the wider world.

New for 2025! International Friendship Week is so popular that we've added a second version, Spring Mini Friendship Week, in 2025. With three programme days and two free days, it's perfect for those who want to organise some adventures of their own while still experiencing an Our Chalet event!

We are planning to offer some Remote Programme Options again in 2025 so that members of the Movement from around the globe can have a taste of Our Chalet even if they aren't able to visit this year.

Our Chalet

2025 CALENDAR

JANUARY



29 Dec-3 Jan New Year's Break

10-11 FIS Ski World Cup

FEBRUARY



1-8 Helen Storrow Seminar

16-22 YUNGA Winter Adventure

MARCH



Independent guest bookings available

APRIL



Independent guest bookings available

MAY



2-10 Ready Steady Go

FULLY BOOKED

12-29 CLOSED

JUNE



14-20 Discover 1

21-27 Explore 1

FEW ROOMS AVAILABLE

29 Jun-5 Jul Adventure 1

JULY



6-12 Discover 2

FULLY BOOKED

16-22 Explore 2

CAMPSITE AVAILABLE

23-29 Adventure 2

FEW ROOMS AVAILABLE

AUGUST



30 Jul-5 Aug Discover 3

9-15 Explore 3

FULLY BOOKED

16-22 Discover 4

SEPTEMBER



6-13 Walking Week

6-13 Hiking Week

19-27 International Friendship Week

SCHOLARSHIP AVAILABLE

OCTOBER



26 Oct-1 Nov Autumn in the Alps

SCHOLARSHIP AVAILABLE

NOVEMBER



CLOSED

DECEMBER



CLOSED TO 13 DEC

19 Dec-4 May Skiing at Our Chalet

29 Dec-5 Jan New Year's Break

Our Chalet

2026 CALENDAR

JANUARY



29 Dec-5 Jan New Year's

- Winter Adventure
- Skiing at Our Chalet
- Weekend Breaks

FEBRUARY



15-21 YUNGA Bagde

- Winter Adventure
- Skiing at Our Chalet
- Weekend Breaks

MARCH



8-14 Winter Working Week

31 Mar-7 Apr Helen Storrow Seminar

- Winter Adventure
- Weekend Breaks



APRIL



27 Mar -2 Apr Spring Friendship Week

- Skiing at Our Chalet

MAY



2-10 Ready Steady Go

1-4 Skiing at Our Chalet

JUNE



21-27 Discover 1

28 Jun-4 May Explore 1

JULY



6-12 Adventure 1

13-19 Discover 2

23-29 Explore 2

AUGUST

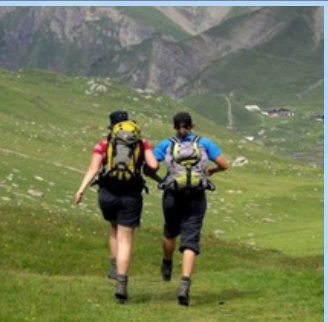


30 Jul-05 Aug Discover 3

9-15 Explore 3

16-22 Discover 4

SEPTEMBER



6-13 Walking Week

6-13 Hiking Week

19-27 International Friendship Week

OCTOBER



26 Oct-1 Nov Autumn in the Alps

27 Sep-3 Oct Staff Reunion

NOVEMBER



CLOSED

DECEMBER



CLOSED TO 13 DEC

29 Dec-5 Jan New Year's Break



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MESSAGE OF THANKS

THANK YOU

We are grateful for your continued support and friendship. Thanks to you, we are able to keep improving Our Chalet and offering meaningful experiences to everyone who visits. We look forward to welcoming you to Our Chalet in the future and sharing more unforgettable moments together.

Warm regards,

The Team at Our Chalet

Get involved





!Merci !شكرًا لكم!
Gracias! Thank you!



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Kusafiri
Nuestra Cabaña
Pax Lodge