

Gebrüder Weiss Hosts its Fourth Apprenticeship Camp

Between 22 and 25 June 2006, eleven Gebrüder Weiss (GW) apprentices travelled to Tessin for the opportunity to get to know one another and the company's various different fields of work.

In a repeat performance, GW again invited apprentices this year to a four-day retreat in an old stone house in Tessin. Guided by two experienced coaches, the eleven youth from Vorarlberg and Southern Germany as well as their respective supervisors practised character skills and cultivated their mental and physical abilities. Michael Rauch, a Vorarlberg attorney specialising in juvenile affairs, and his colleague Susanne Flatz not only devised the camp's intensive programme but were also right in the thick of the activities themselves as coaches.

In the form of games and athletics activities, the young people were given the opportunity to learn more about themselves and their colleagues. "The programme was really strenuous but it was fantastic. Right from the beginning, we developed trust in the group and in the coaches," said Michaela Tschauner, an apprentice in Feldkirch. Even sharing the cooking and cleaning duties in the secluded stone house was an important component of the programme which gave the apprentices time to discuss the various learning experiences they've had and make friendships that go far beyond the walls of a branch office.

For the truly courageous, a bungee jump was also on tap during the four-day retreat. Whilst ten of the altogether eleven apprentices originally signed up, in the end, seven of them actually went through with the jump from 220 meters. "The camp – with or without bungee jumping – was a huge success for all involved and GW will again be hosting an apprenticeship camp in Tessin next year," states Wolfgang Krank, GW apprentice supervisor.

Apprentice training at GW

The Gebrüder Weiss organisation, headquartered in Lauterach (Austria), employs approximately 3,900 people at 134 locations worldwide. In fiscal year 2005, the logistics company generated sales of 789 million Euro.

The company fills 40 forwarding merchant apprenticeship positions in Vorarlberg and Southern Germany annually. In Austria, apprentices who have exhibited excellent performance during their apprenticeship are further invited to complete an additional one-year advanced course to become a forwarding logistician. Earlier this year, Gebrüder Weiss was awarded the distinction of “Excellent Training Facility“ for the seventh year in a row.

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