

24th

MARCHE DE L'ESPOIR

Quai du Mont-Blanc
Geneva

An active
commitment

www.marchedelespoir.ch

12 good reasons to promote it at school

Spreading the message of la Marche de l'espoir means encouraging children and young people to become the actors of a fair development.

1 La Marche de l'espoir adheres to the French Swiss public school curriculum (Plan d'Etude Romand or PER)

La Marche de l'espoir is not just another activity adding to a programme already considered overloaded by many teachers. It fits perfectly into the PER and even allows the attainment of its most generous objectives. (For specific references to the PER, please see the document entitled: Marche de l'espoir, links with the PER).

2 La Marche de l'espoir encourages students to reach beyond the limits of their own culture

By introducing students of the North (developed countries) to the realities of the life of a child of the South (developing countries and his community), la Marche de l'espoir promotes the discovery of another culture, another way of life. Students are made aware of everyday issues they would never have imagined and for which Terre des Hommes Suisse offers relevant answers.

3 La Marche de l'espoir: a true act of solidarity

By walking with the objective of raising funds to improve the quality of life of less fortunate children and their families, students perform a true act of solidarity. They understand that children's rights are not respected everywhere and that, as a consequence, many children suffer. At their own level, and in collaboration with thousands of other children, they contribute to reducing inequality and bringing about more justice and fairness.

4 La Marche de l'espoir: an active way to promote children's rights

The projects of Terre des Hommes Suisse in the South aim to promote and defend children's rights. By working actively for the protection of abused and exploited children, promoting quality education accessible to all, and providing local communities with means to secure an access to food, Terre des Hommes Suisse strives to offer every child a better future. Thanks to the moral, financial, and physical role they play in achieving these objectives through la Marche de l'espoir, students are active in the promotion of children's rights.

5 La Marche de l'espoir allows students to make a conscious and rational choice

Students are informed in an objective manner about the reality of a country in the South. They are encouraged in an attractive and accessible way to contribute in order to improve this reality. After that, it is up to them, with their parents' help if necessary, to make a choice: to participate or not in the Walk, how many kilometers to walk, etc.



- 6 La Marche de l'espoir requires the student's active commitment**
When students decide to take part in the Walk, they become responsible for the success of their project. They must find sponsors, explain to them the purpose of the Walk, convince them of the relevance of their commitment, and then provide the actual effort to reach the number of kilometers pledged; after which they will have to return to their sponsors, collect the money pledged and send it to Terre des Hommes Suisse. This active involvement helps students become committed and responsible citizens, sensitive to global imbalances.
- 7 La Marche de l'espoir is healthy**
Not only is la Marche de l'espoir an act of solidarity, it is also an athletic activity promoting good health. Walking a certain number of kilometers in a natural setting is highly beneficial as it boosts one's physical capacity and immune system.
- 8 La Marche de l'espoir promotes sustainable development**
From a social perspective, la Marche de l'espoir promotes active solidarity, public-spirited involvement, good citizenship, and greater social justice. Economically, it offers disadvantaged communities the means to improve their quality of life. Environmentally, it ensures strict waste management, as well as respect for urban surroundings and the use of fair trade products; in the South it allows the development of region-specific agriculture and living conditions, respectful of the individual.
- 9 La Marche de l'espoir is a large public event**
On the Sunday of the Walk, thousands of people gather at the Quai du Mont-Blanc in Geneva. A huge release of balloons, varied entertainment activities along the route, a joyful and friendly atmosphere, the feeling of taking part in a noble cause — all these contribute to the festive and pleasant dynamics of the event. For over 20 years this festival has been one of the main events taking place in October in Geneva.
- 10 La Marche de l'espoir is a must in Geneva**
Since 1992, la Marche de l'espoir has gradually established itself as a major event in the Greater Geneva area. With thousands of participants, hundreds of volunteers, numerous attendants and spectators, it has become the largest solidarity event in Switzerland in which young people take action for other young people. By taking part in this event, they can contribute generously in order to bring more justice to a world in which resources are unequally shared.
- 11 La Marche de l'espoir makes it possible for Terre des Hommes Suisse to carry on its action**
Active in 11 countries with over 60 projects, Terre des Hommes Suisse, along with its partner organizations strives for the respect of children's rights and those of their community. The projects supported by Terre des Hommes Suisse are carefully selected and monitored. This ensures our partners' responsibility and accountability, and in the longer term, their autonomy. La Marche de l'espoir brings an essential financial support to enable them to continue their work.
- 12 La Marche de l'espoir guarantees the adequate use of funds**
The public often wonders if funds raised by NGOs are being used wisely. Through its representatives in the field, originating from local communities in every country where it operates, Terre des Hommes Suisse scrupulously verifies the use of funds allocated to each project. Donors can therefore be certain that the money will directly contribute to the well-being of populations in the South.

