

STAVANGER DAYS IN TEXAS 2008

March 7th – March 15th

A presentation of the participating groups





Stavanger Days in Texas 2008

Stavanger, Norway and Houston/Galveston, Texas have enjoyed close relations ever since becoming Sister Cities in the beginning of the 1980s. The cooperation has given us a unique opportunity for sharing knowledge with different actors at different levels in the world's leading Energy Capital. It has also provided an opportunity for youth across the Atlantic Ocean to enter into communication with each other. The value of such contact, in my opinion, cannot be underestimated, as it creates a better understanding between the people of Houston and Galveston, and the people of Stavanger. More than one thousand youth from the three cities have visited each other in the past 28 years, and life-long relationships have emerged.

I would like to sincerely thank all of those in the energetic and open city of Houston/Galveston who are welcoming the youth from Stavanger. We truly appreciate it, and are looking forward to welcoming you to Stavanger in 2010!

Leif Johan Sevland
Mayor of Stavanger

Stavanger2008 -- European Capital of Culture

Every year the European Union (EU), a European intergovernmental organization with 27 Member States, appoints European Capitals of Culture. Stavanger, together with Liverpool in the UK, are designated the European Capitals of Culture 2008.

The concept was launched by the EU in 1985 and is designed to bring the people of Europe closer together through culture. Since the launch of the project, over 30 cities have enjoyed being European Capitals of Culture, including Athens in Greece, Krakow in Poland, Porto in Portugal, Salamanca in Spain and Paris, France.

The vision of *Stavanger2008* is expressed through the concept “*Open Port – Openness Toward the World*”. Stavanger aspires to be an open and welcoming city; one where the people of the Stavanger-region enjoy their living space and where visitors feel at home.

We started off this fantastic year with a folk festival which included a huge parade and performing artists from all over Europe. We finished the opening ceremony with a magnificent firework display. I am proud of being the Mayor of the *European Capital of Culture 2008* and I hope that the many cultural events of 2008 will result in openness, closer cooperation, and a strong sense of community among the people of the Stavanger-region and beyond.



Photos courtesy of www.visit-stavanger.com



The Cathedral Youth choir

The Stavanger Cathedral Youth Choir consists of 20 girls. This choir was founded in 1979 and is recognized as one of the finest choirs of its kind in Norway. In addition to singing once a month during the Sunday worship service at the Cathedral, the choir gives a series of concerts each year.

The Youth Choir of Stavanger Cathedral has had several concert tours abroad, including visits to Sweden, Croatia, USA, Denmark, Iceland, Germany, Spain, England, Wales, and Canada. Our greatest achievement to date was when we won the first prize in a competition in York, England.

The Youth Choir is returning, having previously participated in the Stavanger Days in Texas 2004 Exchange Program.



Stavanger Dance Center Show Team

Stavanger Dance Center opened its doors in January 2006. We have since then been teaching dance to people of all ages in Stavanger and the surrounding area. Our show team is made up of teenagers from the Stavanger area, who some the most talented dancers in the area.

Some of our dance styles are; Salsa, Hip Hop, Modern Jazz, Jazz ballet, Swing. We have been eagerly looking forward to visiting Houston/ Galveston in March.



The Scouts of Stavanger

The Scouts of Stavanger is a liaison unit for all the 11 groups of Scouts in the City of Stavanger.

Scouting in Norway mainly seeks to promote friendship, creativity, quality of life, outdoor life and social action. We are not divided by gender. In our region, we are fortunate to have the diverse settings of nature in the forms of the ocean, fjords, and mountains so close by. This provides a wonderful, challenging outdoor environment. Every year the Scouts travel to big national and international Scout encampments. This promotes friendship across borders, and often results in a return visit from abroad the following year.

The Scouts of Stavanger are quite eager to form alliances with the twin sister cities of Stavanger. For this trip we bring 16 scouts from 4 different scouting groups in various parts of Stavanger. We look forward to forming new friendships and experiencing scouting the way you do it!

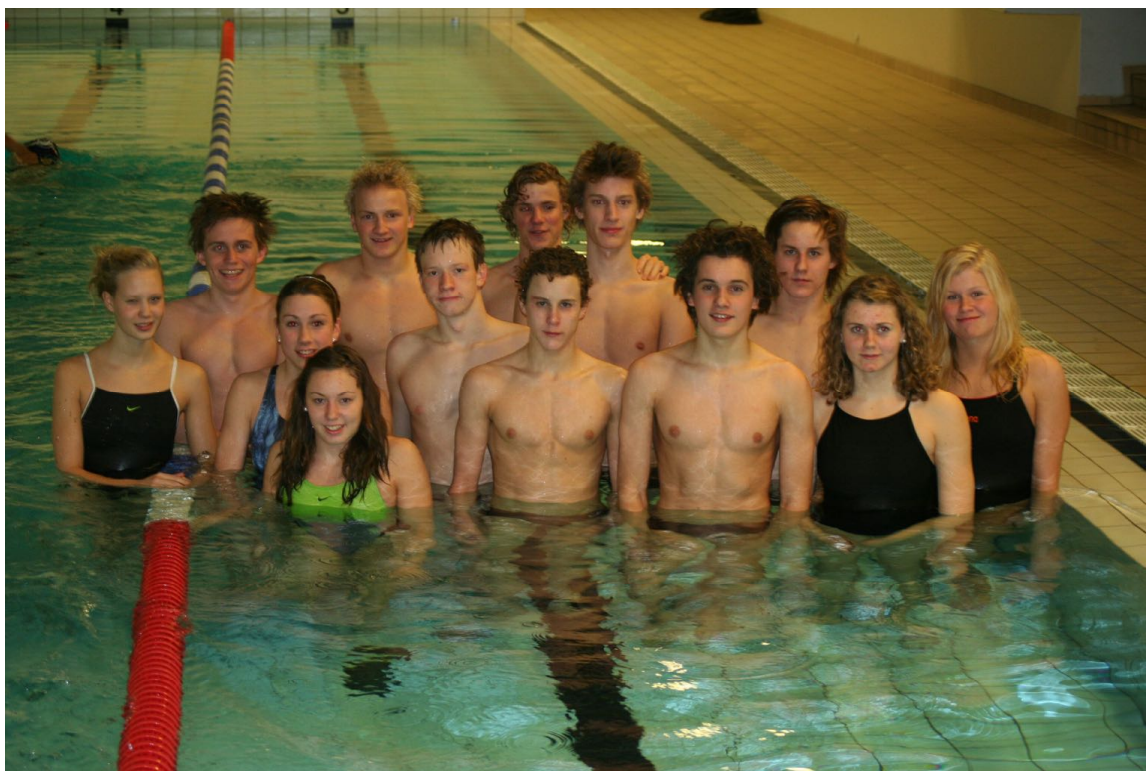


Swimming – Team Stavanger, et al

The swimmers chosen to represent Stavanger for this program come from most of the swim clubs in the city. Frisinn, Madla, SSC, & Team Stavanger are all represented by their best, and most all-around swimmers. Many of the participants were host families for the Texas Days in Stavanger Exchange Program in 2006.

The group is evenly divided between boys and girls between 16 and 18 years of age. All of the swimmers are serious competitors, who place emphasis on perfecting their skills in their sport. Many of the competitors are members of the Norwegian Swimming Association's National Team, and also are among Norway's best junior swimmers. Most recently at the North Sea Meet in Stavanger, and at the Norwegian Championship a little while later, many of the competitors placed quite well, with medals at all levels. The swimming environment in Stavanger stands very strong in Norwegian standards, and the city is one the three leading cities in the country.

All of the participants are excited about what the visit to Houston/Galveston will bring, and all are looking forward to learn more about the USA, together with building lasting new friendships.



Soccer

The Norwegian football team (or soccer, as you Americans call it) is put together of girls from various clubs in the Stavanger area. In Norway, the girls play mainly for club teams. Although there is a school tournament every year, this is not the main arena. Several of the girls have played for the regional teams of Rogaland. The Stavanger team will meet a couple of times before departure in order to prepare for the games in Texas.

The Norwegian style of football has many similarities to the American style - in particular the focus on physical strength and conditioning, which has led to many dramatic games between the two national sides over the years. Hopefully we'll see some close matches also in Texas where Stavanger has two victories from the last meeting to defend.



The Culinary Institute of Norway

The Culinary Institute of Norway (CIN) was established in 1990 by people who enjoy food, are inspired by it and take a keen interest in the cultural aspects of food and beverages. The Institute is run as a limited company with Matforsk AS, Fiskeriforskning (Fishery Research), Norconserv AS, and the CIN Foundation as owners.

The Culinary Institute of Norway has a total staff of 29 people. The head office is located in the same premises as University of Stavanger, with The Norwegian School of Hotel Management. There are 12 employees in the brand new 1000 sq. meter kitchen facilities at the Oslo branch.

A national centre of expertise

The Culinary Institute of Norway is a national center of expertise for participants in the food and beverage value chain. We work within the fields of training, promotion and meal development, both for professionals in the food and beverage industry, and for anyone who is interested in food and food culture.

The Culinary Institute of Norway brings good food into focus, spreads enthusiasm for food and works to increase the understanding of food and beverage as important aspects of culture.

Since 1990, this professional environment has systematically recruited the very best chefs in Norway. We have instilled self-respect among the people in the food industry and promoted some of the best food and wine ambassadors. CIN has spent years developing good relations with the best culinary environments in the world. Our network is unique.

Travellers in fine cuisine

The Culinary Institute of Norway is delighted to show off Norwegian quality products both nationally and internationally. By doing so, the Institute passes on the positive qualities of Norwegian food and culinary culture. At the same time, we contribute to increased profitability and provide opportunities for the Norwegian food industry to develop.

Ever since the beginning, CIN has been on the move, doing its best for fine cuisine. We have presented Norwegian raw materials and food articles all over the world. As an example, we have arranged salmon academies in Asia, and exhibitions where Norwegian cheese was to convince fussy French palates.

We dare to say that no one else has more expertise when it comes to adapting products and developing measures for a target group and its cultural point of view.

Chef Program

Hallstein Høydalsvik is the Executive Chef at the Radisson SAS Atlantic Hotel, Stavanger. He has worked his way through the ranks from cook, sous chef, and now Lead Kitchen Chef in just 12 years.

Food Philosophy: Locally-available food, with local raw materials; Promote and encourage small-scale businesses; Bistro gourmet; Gourmet food in a single method.

The Radisson SAS Atlantic Hotel is the largest and perhaps the most traditional hotel in Stavanger, right in the hear of the city. Built in 1952, it has 352 rooms and the oldest continuous restaurant in the city.

Chef Anders Hellegaard - Gastronomisk Institut

Chef Endre Gabrielsen - Gastronomisk Instiutt

Chef Hallstein Høydalsvik - Radisson SAS Atlantic Hotel

Chef Jan Roger Blø - Radisson SAS Atlantic Hot.



We wish to thank our main sponsors and collaborative partners for making it possible to hold this Sister City Exchange, and to invite you to the Stavanger Days in Texas 2008.

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