

The teenagers „grow up“

In Germany it is a custom to celebrate a party for the adolescents who reach adulthood. It is celebrated when they are 14 years old and visit the eighth grade.

There are different types of these celebrations. Adolescents who belong to a religious denomination celebrate the confirmation (catholic) or the confirmation (protestant).

For those who don't belong to a religious denomination there is the so called youth dedication ceremony.



Why it is celebrated?

The intent of these celebrations is to show that the adolescents are not seen as children anymore. Instead they will be looked up as adults. The little girl becomes a young woman and the little boy becomes a young man.



Information about the youth dedication ceremony

- the youth dedication ceremony is organized by a group of parents, the school does not organize the ceremony (the teachers only inform about it in the parent`s evenings)
- there is a big party at the day of the young dedication ceremony in which the teenagers celebrate with all classmates, teachers and parents, brothers and sisters, grandparents, aunts and uncles
- during the ceremony there is a program which also includes a speech → during the speech it is sensitively explained that the teenagers grow up now
- the teenagers also wear glamorous clothes at this day → most of the girls wear a great dress and the boys often wear a nice shirt or even a suit
- after the ceremony with all classmates the adolescents celebrate at home with their relatives

- it is common to get many presents at this special day → the most teenagers also get some money, so that they can fulfill some wishes they have



Information about the confirmation (protestant) and the confirmation (catholic)

confirmation (protestant)

- for adolescents who are protestant
- similar to the young dedication ceremony the teenagers also celebrate a big party with all relatives
- first of all, the teenagers, parents and the other relatives go to the church where the confirmation (protestant) takes place, after that the party goes on at home or in a restaurant
- at home the teenagers also get some money for fulfilling their wishes (many teenagers save the money they got for the driving license for example)
- also similar to the young dedication ceremony is, that the teenagers also wear glamorous clothing



- the difference between the youth dedication ceremony and the confirmation (protestant) is that the teenagers are prepared almost two years in advance
- they have to go to the „Konfirmandenunterricht“ (confirmation lessons), which is given by a pastor
- the intent of the „Konfirmandenunterricht“ is to deal with questions of the faith
- they talk about different things and sometimes they also play games which have something to do with church



Confirmation (catholic)

- it is celebrated by adolescents who are catholic
- in principle it is similar to the confirmation (protestant)
- the aim of the confirmation (catholic) is similar to the aim of the confirmation (protestant): you want to strengthen the belief of the children
- the confirmation (catholic) is carried out by a bishop
- the teenagers also celebrate the confirmation (catholic) with their relatives
- most teenagers want to get some money, so that they can afford something they always wanted