

september and october monthly report

friends

During both of these months I've been hanging out with friends for the majority of my time. I was lucky enough to attend an Oktoberfest with an exchange friend of mine, in which her family was invited to. It was extremely fun to be apart of something that is so key in the German culture and being able to wear a dirndl (traditional Oktoberfest dress, as pictured below). I visited many cities located in my district, including the beautiful Heidelberg, which I believe I may have talked about before. One of my oldies (an exchange student with me in the first half of my exchange) visited Germany from Finland, which was one of the best surprises this month. One of the best parts about exchange, is maintaining friendships from around the world; which is especially hard when you don't know the next time you'll be seeing one another.

lollapalooza

In early September, I was lucky enough to go to a music festival in Berlin with an exchange friend of mine. Along with him, his older host sister and two of her friends, we drove 8 hours across the country to the heart of Germany. During this music festival I was lucky enough to watch some of my favourite artists live. It was a two day event which went from 10am-12am with artists such as Imagine Dragons, David Guetta, The Weeknd, etc. After the two days of the festival, our last day in Berlin was spent touring the city. I have to say, Berlin is such a wonderful, colourful and overall amazing city that it was difficult having to leave. However, my district is having their own 5 day Berlin tour at the start of December, which I'm incredibly eager for.

new host family

During September, I moved into my final host family of my exchange. Currently, I live in Kirrweiler, which is a 12 minute train drive away from my host city, Landau. Kirrweiler is a small village with around 5 thousand occupants. I have my two host parents, Hugo and Marita; as well as 3 host siblings. All of my host siblings are over 20 years old and don't live at home, but visit from time to time. In the photo to the right, my host family, their employees and I, are picking grapes from the vineyard they own. In total it took us 5 hours to cut 20 rows.



language camp

During the first 2 weeks of October, I had my language camp with my district. It was held in Worms, one of the famously historical towns of my state, Rhineland-Pfalz. Together, we were 28 exchange students from 16 different countries. Over the course of two weeks, we learnt about the history of Worms and Rhineland-Pfalz. Each day we did 4 hours of German study which was taught by university students and the Rotex that accompanied the trip. One of the days, we also went to two different castles which were essential in the history of our state. Most days, we were given free time between lunch and dinner, so normally we would all go look in the shopping mall, or go get ice cream. Language camp, although strange timing as it was my 9 month mark in Germany, was such an amazing opportunity; each of the new exchange students really got to know each other a lot better than before. Coming back home after the camp was strange, as I had gotten so used to living with 28 16-18 year olds for 2 weeks, so coming back was definitely a lot quieter. However, I'm extremely excited for my next orientation with my district.



strasbourg

During October, my Rotary club invited me to their trip to Strasbourg, in France. There, we met with our partner club and took a tour of the famous cathedral, the Strasbourg Cathedral. It was a beautifully designed Cathedral rich with historical knowledge. After this, we went to lunch where we had a three course meal, all French cuisine. Once lunch was over, we all went to have a boat tour along the rivers of Strasbourg, where we listened to the audio tour describing the history of all of the buildings and places we passed by. Overall, Strasbourg is such a gorgeous city and I'd love to return there one day.

