

Lions Youth Program: Camp in Bremerhaven and Host Family

Lions Youth Camp's goal is to favour cultural exchanges and, also, diversity acceptance. I can't really put into words what the Camp taught me during those days, but I'll try to explain it through the essential activities I shared with the others.

When we arrived at the hotel we started getting to know each other and started sharing the living space with our roommates.

I found it really easy to do so because I had already gone to a Lions' exchange before.

The hotel was a very comfortable place; we even had a personal kitchen where we had the opportunity to cook (and then eat) traditional dishes of all different cultures.



The most significant activities (beyond all the fun and social activities we had) were as following:

1 "Klimahaus", a place where we had a hands-on experience of the climate change and, in general, human presence, which made impossible on the long run for populations to live peacefully as before.



2 “Eurogate”, Europe’s leading shipping line-independent container terminal operator. The director explained the complications of container shipping and all the logistical solutions behind this commerce.

3 “Auswandererhaus”, a museum that explains the how’s and why’s of immigration through the years, underlining the importance of this experience on a human level and of the moral (or immoral) choices governments and states make which influence migrants’ lives. In my opinion, most important part was the workshop held by a specialised professor.

4 “Bremische bürgerschaft” and “Bundenstag”, both made us comprehend how politics and administration are conceived and how they operate in Germany, in particular the second one, held in Berlin, showed us, thanks to an interesting discussion with a politician’s assistant, how german politics works.

5 “DLR”, a research site for space missions; a mathematician and physician researcher explained what they do and how important it is.

6 “Eisbären Bremerhaven” and “Golf club”, where we had fun and spent quality time with each other. It also was an opportunity to effectively strengthen our bond.



7 “Cuxhaven Mudflat hike”, where we saw the beautiful landscapes and biological diversity.

8 “Naval operation school”

9 “Rhenus Logistics”, symbol of international logistic entrepreneurship.

10 “Closing ceremony at the zoo”, where we met the Lions’ district president; we also increased our knowledge about the animal world.





It's quite impossible to describe the importance of the interpersonal relationships I made throughout this vacation, but they helped me understand myself and others better, enriched my soul, reaffirmed the importance of being able to interact and of doing things for people even when they're different from me.



(Kayak trip with the group, cannot hold the laughs thinking about it)

Confrontation has always been positive and encouraged us to share time, experiences and energy with each other.

All of this would've been impossible without the mediation of Frauke and Gherardt, who bonded our group and valued every single aspect of each individual.



(took in Berlin at the end of the program, even if the camp was over Frauke managed to give us the opportunity to see the city and the Bundestag, making the impossible come true and giving it all to let us spend the last days in Germany as beautifully as we could possibly imagine)

From the 27th to the very end of the vacation each one of us went to our respective host families.

I was lucky to have three Italian guys (Paolo, Filippo and Gabriele) who lived with me and with whom I had, and will continue to have, a special relationship.

My host family consisted of Martin, the dad, and his five kids (in descending age order): Friederike, Christian, Maxime, Matthias, Eilike.



(here we can see a photoshopped picture of the family, edited by Friederike that unluckily was not there to take it with us)

Each one of them gave me a feeling of belonging (even Tara, the beautiful dog in the photo); I would've liked to spend more and more time with them while living our everyday life.

Even though it was quite impossible to always have the whole family around, there are certain moments I reckon with affection and an aftertaste of nostalgia (beyond the excursions and the all the other fun activities)



(climbing park)



(sunset on the beach)



(brunch in Bremerhaven)

All the meals we had together, where each one of us had the opportunity to share all our different culinary knowledge, all the coffees we had even at impracticable times, just

for the sake of the moment, and all the conversations under the moonlight.
I will never forget them: I consider them a family as much as they consider me a part of their.

I want to say, as a conclusion of all these words that I spent to try making understandable how astonishingly deep and positive was the mark that this experience left into my mind, thank you, to all the people that took part in this, I'll always be grateful for what you gave me the opportunity to experience there.

Hope this is not the last one,
Enrico.