

New Dorp: An unforgettable trip

From sweating palms on the Newark airport to the bittersweet goodbye; I can say I'll never forget this exchange we did with school.

Firstly I'd like to talk about the weekend I spent with my host. I was very lucky since we contacted each other early on. So we got to know each other really well and because of that I didn't feel awkward when we came face to face. On the first day we went on a hike with my host, my host's best friend and two of our other exchange students. Later at night we went to the sweet 16 of my host her friend. That was truly something I've never seen before. I genuinely felt like I was watching something on TLC everything was so big and over the top in the best way.

On Monday I joined my host for a day in school. The immediate difference between going to school in The Netherlands vs America: getting up even earlier. Throughout the day I got quite a good impression of how different it was compared to The Netherlands, for example their days are shorter as well as their classes and they all eat lunch at a different time.

Then the next day we got to celebrate my birthday in New York which I obviously will never forget. In the morning my host family surprised me with some gifts and an Italian cookie with a candle, I was so surprised! Later that morning us Dutch students went to visit New York to visit the 9/11 memorial which really had an emotional atmosphere that made me personally feel upset even though I wasn't around at that time. That was definitely something I'd never felt before. We also went to Wall Street and Rockefeller center which was awesome because we looked over the entire city.

The next day we and our hosts went to visit The Statue of Liberty and Ellis Island. That day it was so hot so we all sweated a lot while climbing the stairs of The Statue but the view was truly worth it. Another super cool thing my host, her best friend, her exchange students and I did was that we got to see two Broadway shows! Aladdin and Charlie and the chocolate factory which was definitely the highlight of this trip to me because even though it was the same story as in the movies they gave it their own spin which made it unique and I really liked that.

Overall I feel very grateful to have been given this opportunity to visit New York. I'll never forget this and the new friend I made there.