

1st & 2nd Day (by Maxime Fritzsch)

Our journey began at Frankfurt airport at 4 am. The biggest difference to a flight within the EU was probably the bureaucracy. We had to do a half hour ESTA-Application on a computer about one week before the flight and on the plane we were asked to fill out a customs form and declare everything we would leave in the US.

We flew to Chicago, then to Wausau, which is the closest airport to Tomahawk. For me the 9 hour-flight to Chicago was probably too long, even with watching some movies.

We drove to Tomahawk in a school bus and met our exchange partners there. Most of us went to bed early because we had been awake for almost 21 hours.

The next day was probably the most exciting day because it was the first one. We learned a lot of things about the American school system. For example a big difference is their school day. They have the same subjects every day and no real breaks. They only have 4 minutes between the lessons and there is only one 40 minute break in the noon. But they don't have to do much homework at home, they have resource hours where they can do their homework or other things. Also every student has a notebook and they can access the internet, but some websites are blocked. The students have their own locker too, just like in the movies. The school day ends at 3:30 pm, but some of students still have sports like cross country (3 miles running), football, basketball, volleyball, baseball and even golf. My first day was very interesting and I learned a lot about the American school system.

3rd & 4th Day (by Lucille Weiser)

I woke up and was so excited. We'd go to the Mall of America. I didn't know how to imagine such a big mall. At 10 o'clock we left the house and after three hours of singing, sleeping and eating in the car we arrived at the Mall of America.

From the outside it looked like a normal mall but when I went into the mall I was standing there with my mouth wide open. You can't imagine how big it is. Four floors full of shops and in the middle a Nickelodeon amusement park. By the way, the biggest amusement park of the world.

First we went to Seaworld. There, you can touch sea anemones, sea stars and other things: for example there is a glass tunnel where you can watch different kinds of fish, turtles, sharks and rays.

Then we went to a roller coaster which

runs through the whole amusement park. After that we went to a water roller coaster. A young girl was sitting in front of us and after the ride she was very wet.

For lunch we ate burger at A&W and then we started our shopping tour. We walked through all four floors and shopped at all kinds of stores. It was an amazing trip.



3rd & 4th Day (by Anne Ehli)

The first weekend in America

Saturday morning the grandparents from my exchange student picked us and a friend of mine and her exchange student up. We drove about 2 ½ hours to Ashland which is at Lake Superior. Lake Superior is the largest of the Great Lakes of North America. During that long drive we talked about how life is going in Germany and we sang German songs. It was fun! When we arrived at Lake Superior we went to a restaurant. We had cheese curds which are typical for the region there in Wisconsin. After we finished our lunch we took the ferry to Madeline Island and took many photos of ourselves on the ferry. On the island we went to different souvenir shops and bought postcards for our families. Back in the car we drove around the island and we saw many deer.



After that we took the ferry back to the mainland and we drove to our hotel. In the hotel we had our own hotel room. In front of our room was a big swimming pool inside the building. We stayed the night and drove back on Sunday morning.

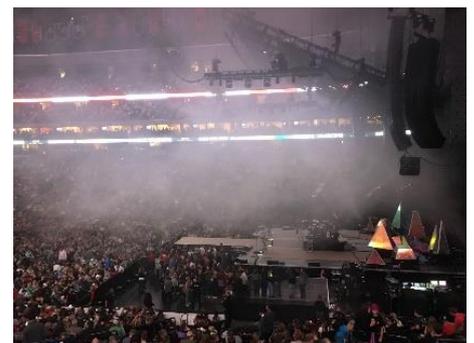
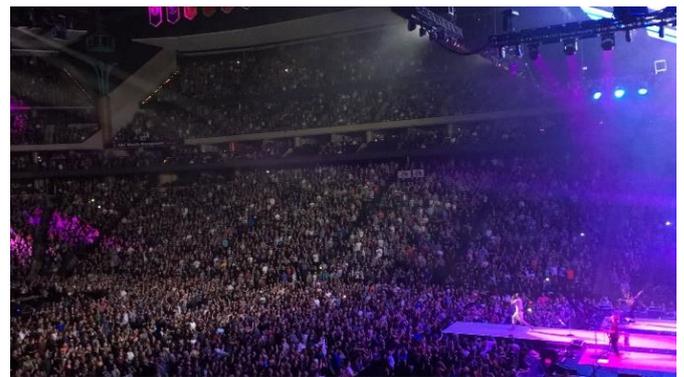


5th Day (by Tim Schieber)

On the 5th day of our journey, I went to Minneapolis to attend an Imagine Dragons concert. That was the highlight of my day for sure and maybe also of my stay in Tomahawk. But we went to school in the morning. This Monday was also the first day we gave presentations at school. My partner and I had to present about Ladenburg and the Rhine-Neckar region. We gave 4 presentations that day. It was especially fun to talk to the younger students who were really interested in how we live in Germany.

Now I'm going to talk about the highlight of my day. My family got tickets for the Imagine Dragons concert in Minneapolis. The first thing to say about that journey is that the distance between Tomahawk and Minneapolis is around 370km. To do that drive from Tomahawk to Minneapolis and back within one day sounds unusual for German standards but in the US, they call it a road trip and it's a relatively usual thing. So, we (we are my exchange student, his mum, his sister and two of her friends and me) got on their Suburban at around 3pm. We drove the distance to Minneapolis in less than 4 hours. So, we arrived at the arena, which wasn't in Minneapolis but in its twin city St Paul, at around 7pm.

The concert took place in Xcel Energy Center which is like the SAP Arena only a bit bigger. The concert was great. It's a completely different experience to listen to them live and not on the radio. It is relatively difficult to describe so I attached some pictures of it. The concert ended at 23.30 pm. So we arrived back at around 4am. Actually, I can't really remember. I was a bit tired and the combination of jetlag and sleeping only 2 hours on that day added up. But this event was totally worth it.



7th Day (by Marie Ackermann)

After a long day full of presentations and school lessons my exchange partner and I went back home to have dinner. But only one hour later we left, heading to meet the others at a campfire at another student's house. When my partner and I arrived at the campfire, the campfire was already going on and there were a lot of the other exchange students too. So we all sat together around the campfire and talked to each other and listened to music.

Also one of the exchange students proved how many marshmallows he can have at the same time in his mouth and he had to stop at ten marshmallows. He did it also a second time and then it was way easier for him. Half an hour later we received some breadsticks and pizzas, which we had ordered from a delivery service.

By the end of the day we played also water ping pong, where the goal was to throw ping pong balls into water glasses. It was an awesome evening, we talked a lot together and made also some jokes. We already left pretty early because we would have to get up earlier for school tomorrow.

So when we got into the car, we smelled the campfire smoke in our jackets and I guess it will last for a few days, reminding us of the beautiful time we had today.

It was an evening to remember. Also I felt as if I had known the others for several years already and not just for a few days.



8th Day (by Sophia Dehnen)

Hi to all readers, waking up at 5 am is not that great but I always do, because of my jetlag. Today on our ride to school, I noticed a girl biking to school. I was really surprised about that, because it was the first time I saw somebody riding a bike on the street since we came to the United States.

A fieldtrip was planned for today, so we got in one of these cool, yellow school busses. The bus took us to a special grocery store, where they are selling just ecological groceries. Then we visited the TV station of Rhinelander channel 12. We got a guided tour through the building and the Head of the station explained how broadcasting live works, for example when they have some minutes entertaining time left the weather broadcaster has to speak longer. We also saw the filming room with many green screens. One of the exchange students tried to moderate the weather show, but it was more difficult than it looks on TV.

Another part of the fieldtrip was visiting the town Minoqua. We had some time to look through cool shops, like a candy shop and a football shop. Some friends and I picnicked down by a big lake. The clear, blue water and the red and yellow leaves of the trees on the other side looked just fantastic. Last we visited the Ojibwe museum, a nice Native American woman showed us how her ancestors had lived a long time ago. In my opinion it was very interesting to learn what they did during the different seasons of the year. How they made maple syrup in summer or how ice fishing works best. We also saw some typical clothes and we learned what happened to the Native Americans after the United States were founded.

Back home two students from our group came over for baking. We made a sweet dessert called poppy chow, which tastes a little bit like M&Ms and we baked brownies. We had a lot of fun and it tasted delicious. Later when my host father got home he picked us up to see the fire department in Tomahawk, where he works as a fire fighter. He showed us the fire trucks and I wore his fire suit and sat in the truck, the suit was very heavy and big, but it felt cool.

9th Day (by Udani Klose)

My guest parent prepared sandwiches for us for lunch and drove us to school in the morning as always. School started at 8:00 am and the GAPP (German American Partnership Program) group met at the homeroom which is Ms Shantz room, our teacher in charge at the Tomahawk High School in Wisconsin.

Thereafter we went to the gym. There we climbed the walls and ropes which had been prepared just for us. The highlight there was to climb one of the walls and then to jump striking a bell. We climbed a lot and had so much fun for two long hours.

Soon after that all of us went in front of the school building and Ms Shantz filmed us there while the German students said ‚squirrel‘ and the American students translated it in German and said ‚Eichhörnchen‘. Everyone said it so differently and it was really interesting to listen to it. We laughed and enjoyed it so much.

We then had a short break and some of the American und German students made a short trip to the school forest. The American students showed us their project and explained what they were working on. It was about a place where they could survive in the wildness or in this case the forest. In order to do that they were searching for dead branches, logs and leaves etc.

Then in the following hours friend and I gave our presentation on the German Education System to grades 9 and 10.

School ended at 3.00 pm as usual and we drove to the place where everybody was meeting.

Together we went canoeing and the boys went swimming around on logs and we all had a memorable time by the lake. In the evening almost all our GAPP friends came and we made a campfire, ate Mini Pizzas, had soft drinks and enjoyed the evening. Then suddenly one of the girls got the idea that we should ride four-wheelers. We had to share two four-wheelers. So we all went in groups of four riding fast through the fields in the nature and into the night. It was so wonderful to feel the fresh air on our faces and we enjoyed it so much. It was indeed a fun filled day!

Then at 9 pm we left and went to my partner's uncle's place. There we sang Karaoke till midnight. We sang old American songs like American Pie, Piano Man, Mr Sandman and German songs too. I sang „Oh Tannenbaum“ and „99 Luftballons“! It was a tiring but one of my most interesting days in Tomahawk!

10th & 11th Day (by Victoria Pech)

My weekend started with typical American breakfast which my host dad made for my exchange partner, her best friend, her exchange partner and me. After it had stopped raining and the sun had come out at about noon, we went fourwheeling. We drove with our ATVs, which are called Quads in Germany, through the city and the forest. They can get up to 50mph which is about 88km/h and you can even drive through mud and puddles.



Next, we bought some pumpkins for pumpkin carving, because many Americans have pumpkins as decoration for Halloween.

In the afternoon we went to Rhinelander, ate at Taco Bell and watched the movie „Happy Death Day“ in the cinema. After that we went home and had a campfire.

The next day we watched a football game: Greenbay Packers against New Orleans Saints. Of course we are Packers fans! Afterwards the four of us carved the pumpkins we had bought the day before and put in candles.



We spend our evening with other Americans and their exchange partners having a campfire and listening to music.



our carved pumpkins

10th & 11th Day (by Lydia Schipper)



The day started very early for me and my host family. We left our beds at 6 o'clock in the morning and sat in the family car half an hour later. A four-hour drive was ahead of us. We left the state of Wisconsin and drove to Minnesota where we reached our destination: the Mall of America! The most visited mall in the whole world and the largest one in the US! It was incredibly large and even included the amusement park "nickelodeon universe" in the middle of all the shops. We had an amazing time there and fell into our beds when we finally arrived back home around midnight.



On Sunday we were all still tired from the exhausting day before. Since the weather was not very good either, we decided to spend the day at home. We played a few board games and I had a lot of fun making slime with my partner's little sister.

12th Day (by Pauline Klopsch)

On Monday we had no school so we decided to take the time and visit the “Mall of America” in Minnesota. My exchange student partner, her little sister and I left home at about 8:00 am and arrived after a three-and-a-half-hour trip full of singing, eating, laughing and lots of fun in Minneapolis. Our first impressions were incredible because this mall



is the biggest one in America: bigger than everything we had ever seen. It has three floors and a basement. Every floor has four wings; north-, east-, south- and west - wing. In the middle there's a theme park sponsored by Nickelodeon with many rollercoasters and more attractions.

Unfortunately we only had one day, so we had to decide which stores we wanted to visit. During the day we visited lots of stores. Another highlight of the day was our big lunch at the local Hard Rock Café where I ate the “Original Legendary Burger”. Before we left, we bought some shakes from Starbucks and went back by car.



When we arrived at Merrill, the neighbor town of Tomahawk, we ordered some cheese curds and more from Culver's and KFC. After another 30 minutes, also filled with eating, singing and having lots of fun, we arrived back home. Then we tried to watch a movie but everyone fell asleep because it had been a long day!



13th Day (by Leonie Mayer)

Happy Birthday Mrs. Goerz!

It's our teacher's birthday today so we congratulate her and celebrate with a cake.

In the afternoon, Mr. Tollefson, a police officer of the Tomahawk Police Department and his drug dog visits us, tells us about his job (in this year alone over 40 arrests due to drug use in the little town of Tomahawk!) and demonstrates how they locate illegal substances. Then we can all take a look in the Police car.



Since it was

freezing outside at the Police car, we are glad to be able to warm up during Mrs. Shantz's Zumba lesson in the school's gym. We dance to all kinds of music and the German teacher shows us some new and fun moves.

In the evening lots of Americans and their German exchange students meet at the house of my host family where we are having a little party. It was so much fun!



15th Day (by Louisa Winkler)

On the 15th day we met in the “Foods Room” to bake cookies. The special experience was that the American and German students had to work together to do that. Of course we had known some Americans before but we were able to talk to the ones we hadn't known before.

We started in groups with recipes in our hands, searching for the right ingredients.

After we had found everything we started to make the cookie dough and then we baked the cookies. When they were done we let them



cool and then we could try them, they were really delicious!! Of course we cleaned the kitchen afterwards and ate some more cookies. It was really fun to do this together with the Germans of our group but especially with the Americans, the whole baking was a little piece of the whole experience and it was one of the very great ones!!

If you are hungry now you can find the recipe below, enjoy!!

You need/ man benötigt:

- 270g Mehl
- 1 Teelöffel Backpulver, Salz & Vanilleextrakt
- 120g weiche Butter
- 85g brauner Zucker
- 85g weißer Zucker
- 2 große Eier
- 270g Schokoladen Chips

1. Backofen auf 190°C vorheizen
2. Butter, beide Zucker & Vanilleextrakt cremig rühren
3. Eier einzeln einrühren (jedes einzeln gut verrühren)
4. Nach und nach Mehl, Backpulver und Salz einrühren
5. Schokoladen Chips vorsichtig einrühren
6. Danach kleine Bällchen formen und mit genügend Abstand zu den anderen auf ein Backblech legen (Teig läuft auseinander zu Cookieform)
7. Für ungefähr 9 Minuten backen
8. Für 2 Minuten auf dem Blech abkühlen lassen und dann vom Backblech nehmen und fertig abkühlen lassen

16th Day (by Yannick Detmers)

Meeting at the theater hall in 4th hour we were greeted by a young woman presenting three wooden boxes, indicating something living inside. We were told they would give a presentation about wild birds, so the German students were positively surprised to see real animals this morning. The woman presenting came from an organization that helps handicapped birds after being injured or having mental disorders. Their ambition is to bring these birds back into wildlife after recovery. We were given a bit of information about different birds in Wisconsin, their interaction with the ecosystem and had the chance to see 3 different predator birds in person.



After school my exchange partner took me to swamp lake. Using a friend's boat to go fishing, we just caught a couple small fish, when suddenly the boat cornered and my line dropped down. The fishing rod bent over completely, so I thought I had caught weed, until we saw a huge pike jumping out of the water. I did not expect to see such a big fish this afternoon and it was an amazing fight, to get this fish on board, so I could hold a 30 inch pike in my hands on my 2nd day fishing ever.

We finished the day, having dinner in the high school's cafeteria, together with all the other GAPP-students and some of their host parents. This would be the last time we'd meet each other until saying goodbye at the airport the following Sunday.

17th & 18th Day (by Alisa Hartmann)

Today we should say goodbye to our exchange students and Tomahawk at the airport. After the emotional leave, we boarded the plane to Chicago. We came from Tomahawk, a little town with large forest areas, to the huge metropolis Chicago. At the beginning it was a total change. The first highlight, we visited the John Hancock Center, which it's a skyscraper in the center of Chicago. At the top of the tower, we could admire the view of Chicago at 300 meters. At once, everybody took a photo of the fantastic view. Actually we liked the ceiling because it's applied with reflective coating. Afterwards we explored downtown on one's own. In the evening we went together to a pier with a Ferris Wheel and the Chicago Shakespeare Theatre. We watched the theatre performance "The Taming of the Shrew" by William Shakespeare. It was a surprise that only women played all the different characters. One actress was able to switch very well between her female and male role. She embodied her male role fantastic and you forgot that she was a women. After the theatre we saw the beautiful skyline in the dark.



Chicago Shakespeare Theatre



Chicago at night

19th & 20th Day (by Paula Bosse)



On Tuesday our group from Germany made a boat tour in the morning. We drove on the “Chicago River” passed the skyscrapers and a guide told us some interesting facts about the city. My personal highlight was the moment

when we were on the lake with the boat and could see the amazing skyline of Chicago. Unfortunately it was cold and windy so we were glad about our hats and gloves.

After the boat tour we had time to warm up in the city. Divided in little groups we went to stores to do some shopping or to eat in one of the restaurants.



In the afternoon we visited the African-History-Museum which was very informative. It was pitiful to see how Africans came to the US and how they were treated.



Because it was our last evening together we cooked noodles in the kitchen of our hostel which was provided for the guests. This was a very nice ending of our 3-weeks trip to the USA.



The next morning everyone had to pack their suitcases, because Wednesday night was the date to fly back to Germany. The last highlight was that we visited the “Bean” and everyone took lots of pictures. After that we had still some spare time on our own again. In the evening we went to the airport by subway and flew right back to Germany!

Thank you Frau Goerz and Herr Kreusel for such a great and unforgettable time !!!