

„The top two weeks of my entire life“

Erfahrungsbericht von Dominic Gavan, Schüler aus Loudoun County, SPEP-Gast im MTK 2011

„My experience in Main-Taunus-Kreis was definitely in the top two weeks of my entire life. When I first heard that I was going to be spending two weeks in Germany I honestly thought that it was going to be a vacation. I was wrong about this, but in a great way.

Those two weeks were some of the most educational weeks in my teenage years. I learned so much about the German culture and also how things work on the other side of the Atlantic. Being in a place that was so different, and in a lot of ways better also let me look at the negatives, and positives of living in the United States.

One of the first things I noticed about Germany was how friendly everyone was to me, even though I often came across as a stereotypical loud american. Most people in the U.S. are not as friendly to foreigners so it was nice to experience friendliness when I was one. I was able to tour some of the offices in the county offices and see how cohesively all of the different departments worked. This surprise on my part seemed almost weird to the Germans. However when you come from a country where departments are notorious for rubbing elbows its nice to see things going smoothly.

The food was my second favorite part of all of Germany, I never had a meal that I left thinking it wasn't amazing even at the office.

When I tell people what my favorite part of Germany was, they usually give me odd looks when I tell them it was The Public Transportation Service. I was a foreigner but by my third day in the country I felt like I could navigate my way pretty easily. The Transport system also seemed to be able to take me wherever I need to go whenever I needed to do. It was also relatively cheap if you bought a week ticket and used it frequently.

It's nice to have a third option because where I come from you only have two options and that is walking, and driving. The bus and trains were a highlight of my trip because they got me to almost all of the best parts of my trip, I wish that this system could be instituted in my town.

Germany was unbelievable and I would go back in a split second!“

Dominic absolvierte während seines Aufenthalts ein Kurzzeitpraktikum in der MTK-Pressestelle. Im Verlauf des Aufenthalts hatte er auch Gelegenheit zu Gesprächen mit Journalisten, Vertretern des Brand- und Katastrophenschutzes, der MTK-Wirtschaftsförderung, der Schulbauverwaltung und der Polizei sowie der internationalen Standortmarketing-Agentur von Frankfurt/Rhein-Main.