

Europäische Projektwerkstatt Kultur im ländlichen Raum Naumburg, Germany

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Emily Hayes

Daily Life

I was staying in the main house of the camp: the same building as the children. My first task of the day was to help with breakfast. Two of the children had to prepare the table while discussing with me in English. I would talk them through what they were doing and ask them for names of objects in English. Then the entire camp (eight children and three supervisors) would have breakfast together. Again my job (and the job of the other supervisors) was to encourage the children to speak as much English as possible during the meal. After breakfast I would supervise washing up, continuing to encourage the use of English in general conversation. The morning was broken up into two halves: sports and film. I was in charge of supervising the sports half. As the camp was focused on British culture as well as learning English I focused on British sports that the children were unlikely to have tried before. During my time at the camp we played cricket, rounders and quidditch. Sports would normally last an hour and a half, depending on weather. After we finished the kids would have a drinks break and my fellow supervisor would take over for the film portion of the day. This was scheduled to be my free time. However, depending on the plan for filming that day I often joined in. Over the course of the camp the children aim to complete a short film. They either worked with stop start animation or live action. After the filming we had lunch. This followed a similar procedure to breakfast with two children being responsible for getting the meal ready and cleaning up afterwards with English supervision. The afternoon schedule was far more variable. Some days we continued to film, others we went to the local pool, others we worked on crafts. The activity was normally selected the evening before. It filled the afternoon until 5pm at which point the entire camp was given an hour of free time before dinner. This was normally spent watching 'Doctor Who' episodes or chilling on the hammocks talking to the kids. Dinner was followed by either a movie night or toasting marshmallows around a bonfire. Lights out was at 10 and after making sure the children were in bed we would plan the next days' activities. The camps would run for 8 days. The first day would be welcoming the children to the camp. The last day would be saying farewell. The remaining days would be spent as above, with the exception of one trip day. During the 3 to 4 days between camps we were free to remain at the camp or to travel around the local area.

Work Projects

During my time at the camp my main role was to immerse the children in English as much as possible. This involved being a constant presence for them to talk to, encouraging them to try communicating in English whenever possible and organising activities that would be explained and carried out in English. The owner of the camp was always present to support myself and a fellow Oxford intern in these efforts. He was always willing to share his knowledge and experience from previous years' camps. This was a great help when selecting activities, planning activities and working through the general day to day running of life in the camp.

Lasting Impressions

Having never travelled to Germany before, it was always going to be a new experience. I did really enjoy the country. The area I was based was very remote and beautiful. The local food was delicious. I would not return to work or live there simply due to the language barrier (I know very little German), however I would definitely like to visit more of Germany and explore further.



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Europäische Projektwerkstatt Kultur im ländlichen Raum continued...



Laura Cull

Daily Life

The day was quite heavily structured, in order to keep the kids busy. We started at 9am with a camp breakfast, followed by British sports, and a film workshop. After lunch we took part in more outdoor activities, and shot some of the film. After dinner were evening activities, such as a bonfire, or night walk! Each day I would be working for approximately 10 hours, and even during my breaks the kids wanted to talk to me, to learn about my life in England, or just relax by playing some sport. In the breaks between camps my host took me sightseeing around the area.

Work Projects

I helped to create an invigorating, challenging, and exciting programme of activities for German children, all in English. We played British sports like cricket, rounders, even Quidditch, produced films, went to the pool, and generally had fun. I was able to discuss and develop my ideas with the project leaders, who in turn provided their own suggestions.

Lasting Impressions

My internship tested me and helped me to develop in so many ways. I feel more confident, and was inspired by the initiative of the project, by its aims and philosophy. The project proved to me the importance of learning languages. It was a lot of fun to be taught some German by the kids in the camp, and I am resolved to return to Germany to visit my host family with a better grasp of the language. I hope whoever gets the chance to go next year will find it as fulfilling and rewarding as I did!

