

## USA-exchange 2022 – by Samia Jasmin Kramer

I really enjoyed my two weeks stay in the US!

The exchange included a stay with two different host families in two different towns in Wisconsin. With each family, I stayed for about five days and experienced the American everyday life and their culture. In Chicago, we spent another five days, but there we stayed in a hostel.

One of my highlights in the first ten days was definitely Halloween - yes we were in the USA to celebrate it! It was great to see how the Americans celebrate this special day. I can confirm the rumours - Halloween really is a big thing and everyone seems to celebrate it in a way, but you should see for yourself.

Furthermore, it was great to experience school life. It's true, the school system in the US is quite different. The school spirit plays a huge role and extra-curricular activities are very important. Therefore they have many activities and clubs. It was fun to have a look into that kind of school life.

In general, it's true that sports - especially football and basketball - are very present. We visited the Lambeau Field, which is the huge stadium of the Green Bay Packers. My hosts took me to a game of the Wisconsin Badgers, a college football team, and we watched some games on TV.

Another popular hobby in that region is fishing and hunting with actual rifles - yes, it's nothing special to see them put up somewhere in the house as well as stuffed animals.

Something else I noticed is, that they're not as far as we are with their environmental treatment. Using many plastic bags, pages and similar stuff is usual, so that's obviously not very climate friendly.

The days we spent in Chicago were a great end. It was like an awesome and super funny school trip, but in a premium version. On the one hand, we had many possibilities to decide what we wanted to do due to a lot of free time, so we could explore the city in smaller groups. On the other hand, great things like visiting Hancock Tower, the Bean, some parks and many more were already planned for our group.

In general, it was a stunning trip and a once in a life time experience. The USA are so big, just like everything there, like cars, shops etc. and I think it's a great offer to go there on a planned trip with your friends and to make new friends and connect to others. I would do it again anytime and also recommend to everyone who is interested and open whether to different countries and cultures or someone who would love to spend time with their friends.



