

“Short-term exchange program at Elms College”

Culture and English

193004

Ikeda Mona

(1) On February 25th, we took to about 2 hours by train from Boston to the Elms College. When we got off the train, Ms. Joyce welcomed us and we got on the bus to the Elms College. In college, our friendship-partners welcomed us. My partners are Marie Claire, Evelyne and Reyna. They guided me to the dormitory. After put my luggage, I moved to the hall where everyone is gathering. We are oriented explanation. After that, we went back a dormitory with my partners. We ate cup of cakes and talked with them.

On February 26th, we made photo IDs and went to Campus tour. The Elms College was difficult from University of Kochi. The Elms College cherished history, so it has historic buildings. After that, we took Joyce’s English class. It was all English, but it was easy to understand with simple contents and English. At night, we played bowling with Elms and Japanese students.

On February 27th, we took English class. We tried to translate sentences about “Impressions of the United States”. The content was difficult, but student from the Elms College taught me. So, I could understand it. After that, we went to Social work trip. It was support Domestic Violence victim. But, this building was a positive atmosphere. There have many children’s toys which are used not only to play but also to recreate the situation at the time. We went back to the school and participated in the American Holidays event. We played Easter egg hunt and made ginger cookies ornament. We could learn about American Holidays and the difference from Japanese Holiday.

On February 28th, we took English class in the morning. We learned about the United States and Civil Right Movement. After that, we visited Jewish Family Service. We learn about examination to become an American citizen and Jewish. We went back to the school. And participated in Black issues Summit. But this content was very difficult, so we couldn’t understand it. In the night, we participated in the Olympic event. We played twister and danced.

On February 29th, we were driving with friendship-partners. We were shopping in the outlet. We bought souvenirs for my family and friends. I bought snack, Disney toy car and books. There were so cute and yummy. I was satisfied to get many nice souvenirs. We bought lunch and went to school. After ate lunch, we went to Joyce’s house by bus. Her house was very big. It could enter more than 20 people. And we could take off my shoes. I was surprise it, because most American’s house is not walking barefoot. So, I thought it looks like Japan. When we have arrived to

her house, we cooked Japanese food. We cooked Meat and potatoes, Hand-rolled sushi, Miso soup, Japanese rolled omelet, Chilled tofu with toppings and so on. Elms student was very happy for us. And Joyce prepared other foods like sandwiches, snacks and vegetables. After that, we played game. When one person looks at the subject, expresses it with a picture or gesture, and applies it group members. It was very fun. I enjoyed it and we would win. We ate cookies and ice cream by Joyce. It was very good. I could enjoy this day.

On Marth 1st, we visit church in the morning. It was my first time to visit it. I could understand about Christianity and the church when we visited. And we went to shopping in Holyoke Mall. Elms students guided for us. So, we could enjoy the shopping. In the night, we did Karaoke party. They were good at singing songs. We enjoyed it.

On Marth 2nd, we took English class. Therefore, we were informed that we had to return home earlier. So, we started writing a speech to announce at the farewell party. After that, we took Irish language class. Irish language is written by line. We distinguish for number of lines or the position where it is written. It likes easy, but it is difficult that one mistake will change the character. And Elms students introduce for us about Irish culture. It is different from Japan and the United States. After the class, we went to Bowe Elementary School. We communicated with children. We made a Japanese helmet with Japanese paper and presented it for children. They were so kind and cute. I was healed. We went back school and we took English class again. We wrote a speech more. After that, we went to farewell party. We wear formal clothes. We give a speech for friendship-partners and teachers. After speech, we danced Paprika. And talked and took pictures with friendship-partners. I was sad, but I enjoyed this time.

On March 3rd, we prepared for the Doll's festival. Doll's festival is an occasion to pray for young girl's growth and happiness. We eat traditional dishes like scattered sushi, rice cake cubes called "Hina-arare". We decorated dolls at cafeteria and wrote Kanji with a Japanese brush. Elms students were glad to write their name in Kanji. In the night, we participated in Irish Cultural Activity. We danced Irish dance. It was so hard, but I was enjoyed it.

On March 4th, we left the Elms College. They came to see us off. They gave us a present.

This experience has grown me.

(2) I felt difference from Japan.

Most Japanese children are shy, so they can't speak in public. But, American children can express their opinion clearly. There were many opportunities for children to speak at elementary schools in the United States. That's why, the United States children can speak in public and they become an adult, they can easily contact anyone.

In the United States has many various races likes African-American, White and Asian. And they coexist without Discrimination. There are various dishes that Muslim can eat. So, I think when we cook Japanese foods in Joyce's house, we should cook Japanese foods using vegetables. Muslim people cannot drink broth so be careful.