

## Short-term exchange program at Elms college

Culture class

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I took part in the short-term exchange program at Elms College in America in this spring vacation. I experienced many things which can't be experience in Japan. We went sightseeing in Boston for two days. We had to tip at the restaurant. It is difficult for us to tip because there are no tip in Japan. I think American restaurants have good service because there is tip in America. We went to Boston museum. It was very big and there are many art works. I saw homeless people sitting on the street in Boston. Then I saw passenger giving homeless person some food. I had never seen this scene other than TV. So, I thought this scene is actual in foreign countries.

I spent much time with friendship partners at Elms college. I made a lot of friend other than friendship partners. Some friendship partners were good at Japanese. They helped me when I couldn't express my thinking in English. We learned American history and culture in English class with friendship partners. Friendship partners translated difficult English into simple English for me. Also, we learned Irish in Irish class. I thought Irish is very interesting.

I experienced American culture in Elms college. We looked for Ester eggs and made colored eggs. We sang "Jingle Bell" in English and Japanese. After that, we talked about difference Japanese and American holidays with friendship partners. Then I learned that American gather with their relatives on Christmas. Japanese gather with their relatives on New Year, so I thought Christmas in America and New Year in Japan are similar.

On the other hand, there were opportunity to teach Japanese culture to Elms student. Kochi's student cooked Japanese food for friendship partners at Joice's house. Friendship partners enjoyed eating Japanese food and told us it was good. I was happy to hear that. Miso soup and rice cakes were very popular for them. So, I should have brought more rice cakes. On March 3, we decorated hina dolls at the cafeteria. Also, we wrote Elms student's name in kanji by Japanese calligraphy. I belonged to calligraphy club when I was a High school student and wanted foreigners to know charm of Japanese calligraphy. So, I was looking forward to this opportunity. It is difficult to convert English into kanji. But I was happy because Elms student told me "It's very cool. I'll decorate it my room." I thought Japanese calligraphy is wonderful because it makes everyone happy.

I went to shopping with friendship partners on holiday. I saw many big goods. I knew American goods were big, but even toys were big. Also, there were many chocolates. I didn't know which chocolate is good. Then, friendship partners told me which chocolate

to suit Japanese taste. I was happy to buy many chocolates as souvenir.

This short-term exchange program at Elms college changed my way of thinking. Friendship partners took action and tried hard. They learned Japanese words like “kawaii” means “cute ” and “arigatou” means “thank you”. My roommate likes art and drew pictures on her shoes. I was surprised to see them. I learned American people’s way of thinking is different with Japan. Elms students were very kind because they always opened the doors for us. I thought Elms students are kind for other people and think about other people. Also, they worried about me when I had a stomachache. American food was very oily, but I often had stomachache when I ate oily food. But, I brought miso soup, green tea and Umeboshi in this program. Thanks of these food, I didn’t take medicine.

I thought that America is difficult to live in for me before I went to America. But now, I think that America is easy to live in. I found that American nature, scenes and people are so good.

I thought that my English ability is bad when I talked with friendship partners. I couldn’t express my thinking in English. American people speak English so fast. I had to study English before went to America. Many Japanese student speak English without don’t be afraid. So, I learned don’t be afraid to do anything. I’m not good at learning English words, but I want to try to learn it more.

Also, I found that Japan is very great place when I talked about Japan with friendship partners. I asked them “how do you think about Japan?”. They said “The food, nature and people are good.” I was happy to hear that. Many people had a good impression about Japan.

This short-term exchange program at Elms college had many discovery for me. America wasn’t as sanitation as Japan. The restrooms in America were worse than Japan. On the other hand, I learned that there are many country where sanitation is worse than America. I didn’t know other country’s sanitation before went to America. So, I thought I have to thank for living in Japan.

I was surprised that American didn’t wear face masks to prevent. I didn’t see only person who wear mask. Japanese wear face masks to prevent, but American wear masks when they sick. This season coronavirus prevails, so I felt cultural difference.

Many immigrants live in America and they respect each other’s personalities. Elms students were talking with first met person, so I thought American people are friendly. I came to like American people that Elms students told me honestly about their feelings.

I have to improve my English ability. After returning to Japan, I listen to music every day to get used to English sounds. I want to try my best to have confidence in my English ability. I want to go abroad again and learn cultural difference. Also, I’d like to act what

I'm interested in.



Boston museum



View of Boston



Breakfast at cafeteria



At Elms college