

Date with my host mom

February 6th, 2016, A typical Saturday for me was planned out. Homework, chores, nap, homework, chores, nap, again and again. But my host mom decided to change it up a little bit. She texted me and Jennie, who is a Chinese international I live with, out of the blue to go to the salon. So we said why not?

We got on the car in our sweats and flip flops for our pedicure. It's secret but I never went to a salon before. Shh. On our way to the destination we had a conversation about American tip culture. My host mom said you should tip them 20% if you are satisfied with their service. I thought it was 10%. So far they probably thought I was unsatisfied. Whoops! For our tips for later, we stopped by at the atm, post office for my host mom and some other errands. Jennie decided that she wanted to go shopping, and perfectly timed, there was a Marshalls right next to the post office. Of course we went in there and spend 2 more hours than we planned. Trying some dresses and shopping for summer and valentines. I actually bought a bag that looked like my mom's that she had for more than 15 years. She always used that bag for traveling but it broke last year. She was heartbroken but she let it pass by. Maybe the bag I bought might cheer her up. It's a surprise gift for her birthday during the summer, I cannot wait! Anyway, we rushed out of Marshalls knowing how much time we spent in there and drove straight to the Salon. We didn't make an appointment so we waited for couple minutes while we were choosing our nail colors. It was my turn and they took me to this massage chair with a water sink thing attached in the front. The water was warm and I felt so comfortable. I realized this is why people come to a salon so often. My guy was Mike who did my toes. He took out my feet and put some kind of oil on my toes and out something blue in the water. He cleaned my toe, any excess skin and cut my toe nails then back into the water. He scrubbed my legs and smoothen my legs. Then he put on the nail polish after I put on my flip flop so I won't mess it up when I try to put them on. Jennie only did her nails so she was done early and offered to buy sweetfrog while we wait our toes dried even though we are going out for lunch right after. Yup, desert before meal. That happens sometimes.

We left the Salon and went to our next destination, Thai Inter, a Thai restaurant. I love this place since I went there the first time. Whenever I come here I order the same thing every single time, the drunken noodle. You might be a little skeptical because of the name but it has no alcohol in it but a lot of spices and peppers. I cry after this, it's so



spicy that I drink 3 large cups of water and still need more. We left there with great satisfaction.

For the last thing we planned was to go to the asian market for tomorrow because tomorrow night is the big night for our host family!

February 7th, Sunday. I am definitely excited for tonight. We planned for tonight in a week advance. Before tonight I had so many things to do. My host parents already left for my host brother's basketball game, Jennie and I had the whole house to ourselves. We did all the chores and our homework before the night. Also we prepped for dinner because tonight is a combination of Lunar New Years and Superbowl. We chose to cook hotpot which is a Chinese stew, meat sauce with long noodles representing wish for long life, and Chinese rice cake. My host mom brought some sushi, spring rolls to add to the menu.

Sun is down, with slight fading light, My host mom, host dad, Jennie and I went out in the pier. We wrote our wishes on the lantern and lit the fire on the candle. It was very windy and cold and the candle kept going off. We failed on the floating lanterns because the water was way too low but we succeeded to float a lantern in the air and it flew away as we watched it disappear by the moon. We went back in and had the hot pot and other food. It was so good.

After we all went down stairs to watch the Super bowl. But I wasn't interested in the game. I was mainly there to have family time and watch the halftime show. Beyonce, Cold play and Bruno Mars performed that night it was amazing. I fell asleep on the couch without realizing it. My host parents woke me up let me go to my room. I went straight to bed. It was a weekend well spent.

-12기 김지수

Birthday



On March 19th Saturday, it was the best Saturday in my life! Guess what day it was? It was my BIRTHDAY! I finally turned 17 and I was so glad because I usually was the first one to start the game or to go to the board since I was the youngest. I was excited since Friday, a day before my birthday, because all my friends were singing and wishing happy birthday for me. My friends and I also went out to dinner and movie on Friday night!

I could not go to sleep on the Friday night because I was so excited for my birthday, especially, the birthday dinner! When I woke in the morning on Saturday, I got tons of message from my friends in the Philippines, Korea and America. I thanked them so much. I also got a long message from my family so I called them first. I talked to them for a while and told my parents how much I appreciate for everything and how much I love them.

Then my host father came into my room asking what

kind of breakfast I want to have. I said no thank you because I don't like eating in mornings. Anyways, around afternoon, my best friends started coming over. My host parents were going to take us out to restaurant which I picked. We were going to go to a new restaurant called, Lin Buffet. I had never been there but apparently everyone liked it. Once we got into the restaurant, we dove into foods. They had so many foods but my favorite was SUSHI.

After dinner, we came back home altogether to have cake and ice-cream time. My friends sang for me and one of them sucked helium from a balloon and started singing with that weird voice. Then I got to open my gifts. I got vans, a giant huge pillow, a lucky charm key chain and body lotion from bath & body works. It was the best day ever. Oh, I also got another pair of vans from my friends in the Philippines. It was so nice of them.

I was so happy not just because I got gifts and nice dinner, but because I got to stay my important day with



my important people. Even though my family and best friends from my old school were not there, but I still got to celebrate my birthday with my people. I appreciate a lot for everything and everyone.

-12기 김예나

All Catholics



Every year, students from the Archdiocese of Philadelphia schools have an opportunity to audition for All Catholic Orchestra, Band, Jazz Band, and Chorus. All Catholic ensembles perform individually at their host high schools, and perform all together at the Kimmel Center Verizon Hall in Center city. There are a total of 500 students from 148 different Archdiocese schools.

For All Catholic Band, my school, Archbishop Ryan, was the festival host school. Although this was my second year playing trombone, I tried the audition. During the summer, I got a solo piece that is required for the audition ahead of time and practiced until I'm able to play the song without looking at it. For the audition, I went into two different rooms, where each three judges were sitting facing the wall so that they can't see the student's face. When I went into the first room, I had to choose one card out of three which tells what scales and chromatic scales I need to play. To be honest, I was extremely nervous and did not do well. (I almost had a breakdown) But for the second room, I played the solo that I had been practicing. After a few weeks, when I heard the news that I got in, I was more than a little happy. Along with the result, I got about 7 music pieces to practice. For about 2 months, I practiced by myself as much as possible and with my school teacher once a week.

On Friday 19th, Saturday 20th, and Sunday 21st of February, everyone came to Ryan at 9'o clock. We practiced all together and took a 15 minute break every two hours. Our guest conductor was Dr. Emily Threinen who is a director of Bands and Artistic Director of Winds and Brass, and associate professor in the Boyer College of Music and Dances at Temple University in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Since the band was consisted of students from different schools, I got to meet new kids who played the same instrument as mine and became really close. I was surprised that they had been playing trombone for about 6 years on average, and they were also surprised that I had only been playing trombone for 2 years. On Sunday night, we performed

in front the audience of 200 people.

A month after the performance, All Catholics gathered to rehearse our upcoming performance at the Kimmel Center on March 22nd. On 15th, we all went to Bishop Shanahan High school. In the auditorium, chorus, orchestra, band, and jazz band members practiced playing an opening song, Star-Spangled Banner, and a closing song, I Hear America Singing. Then we divided into sections, picked and practiced three songs to perform. On 21st, we went to the place we will perform on Wednesday night, Kimmel Center, Verizon Hall. Verizon Hall is a cello-shaped auditorium with 2,500 seats, and up to 3 tiers. It also contains a pipe organ which is the largest mechanical action pipe organ in an American concert hall. I was totally fascinated by how large the auditorium was and how elegant it was. On 22nd, it was finally the last performance of All Catholics this year. When I went up to the stage and saw the audience seats completely filled, I got really overwhelmed, and only focus to end the final performance well. As we all sang the last closing song, the feeling I felt was indescribable, and glad that I was part of this fascinating ensemble.



To conclude, if you play any instrument and have the opportunity to join All Catholics, do it. Just do it. It is such an incredible experience that you will never ever forget. Think about it, when will you be able to perform in front of 2,500 people? It is a once in a lifetime experience. Go for it. You won't regret joining.

-12기 이지원

Easter



When the Easter is coming with good Friday, spring break is over there. Then, you may ask when it is. Let me tell you a little bit about Easter. Easter is scheduled to fall on the first Sunday after the first full moon after the Spring Equinox around March 21. The Spring, or March, Vernal Equinox is the moment the sun crosses the celestial equator- the imaginary line in the sky above the Earth's equator from south to north. So in western Christianity, Easter will always fall between March 22 and April 25.

Mostly for kids, Easter is the time of year when many their thoughts turn to chocolate, egg hunts, bunnies and the resurrection. And the first bank holiday weekend of the year - with four straight days off work- will also be appealing. Also many of people are planning a break with the family or a weekend visiting or maybe just looking forward to spending a long weekend relaxing at home like me or wondering what the religious origins of Easter actually are.

For me, Easter was a great break to take a relax for a week. Since my host dad had surgery on his shoulders and host mom does not like to drive far distance I did not have any short trip or whatever. However, instead I went to Korea-town in Chicago and enjoyed meat buffet and karaoke with people from church.

Actually I am going to church every Sunday, and this Easter time I had experienced very interesting mass because that church is normally share with Korean, American, and Hispanic so that there was a Easter mass with

all three different people I mean who speak different language; even they speak English it was fun to see and experience. As you see the picture, the area where I live, there were lots of Germans in the past so there is German, English, Spanish and Korean. During mass, three different pastors had a speech in three different languages and also sand in three different languages.

I also got an Easter basket from host parents. There were all kinds of chocolates and candies and a box of snacks... on the Easter morning, host dad called me and I went to downstairs and say happy Easter. Then he said "Here you are, it is all for you and especially I put that two starts to decorate" I was like "Thank you!! That is so adorable!" Afterward I was having them for snacks during watch movies during all day of spring break and decorate the eggs. Actually we just did coloring those eggs because there was no marker to put on. My host mom she put some solid things and mix with hot water to melt it and when it cools down we put the eggs in that water but the smells was so bad. I still can remember that disgusting smells...I will never forget it was so terrify - I did not eat any of those eggs even that smells got better.

-12기 오수경

Newyork City



New York is one of the most acclaimed cities in the world. My friend and I had a chance to visit it during the spring break. Fortunately, it was quite easy for us to travel New York because of its developed transportation. We went to the city with a bus from 30th street. Also, through the city, we used subway for a couple of times, which let us to move place to place in shorter time than we expected.

The first stop of our journey was Time Square. As I have seen in numerous magazines and websites, colorful and gigantic signages were everywhere. They made the place even more bright and fun. The most memorable place of this humongous square was Forever 21. Since I am crazy for their affordable, but beautiful accessories and clothes, I was so happy to see such a huge building full of jewelries and garments. My friend and I spent almost an hour to just shop at this mall.

Our last spot was SoHo, also known as the South of Houston. It was full of small, but lovely shops and ca-

fes. Also, we could walk round New York University. Although there were lots of people around the college, it was quiet and urban. We enjoyed a short moment of peace when we sat on a bench with a scrumptious crepe from a food cart. We visited a famous dessert cafe and enjoyed two pieces of adorable and tasty cakes. All we did was shopping and eating, but it was just pleasant as it can be.

The most memorable part of the trip was the dinner.



We found a small Italian restaurant, and it had the best shrimp pasta that I have ever tasted in my life. As an avid shrimp lover, I really admired the dish and wished to come back at least once in my lifetime. New York is such a consummate place for explorers who like to be themselves. I adored the city's diversity and harmony.

-12기 정은교



Daily Irish Experience



It was 2015 when I started to get interested in Ireland. I had an opportunity to go visit Ireland and that was the beginning. My host mom last year was an EF tours director and she asked me if I was interested in traveling to Ireland. I said yes because I never been there before. So I had gone to Ireland for a week during spring break, and I absolutely loved it. It was so much different from both Korea and America. Green grasses everywhere with all the animals. It was so beautiful. I had already traveled 11 countries and Ireland had to become one of my best.

After traveling to Ireland, It made me to think of my first experience of St. Patrick's Day. I had no clue what that day was, but one thing I remember was everyone dressed in green. I was sort of confused why American celebrate Irish holiday. Later I learned and wished I could participate next year too. To briefly summarize the St. Patrick's Day, it is every year on March 17 and the Irish and the Irish-at-heart across the globe observe St. Patrick's Day. What began as a religious feast day for the patron saint of Ireland has become an international

festival celebrating Irish culture with parades, dancing, special foods and a whole lot of green.

It was a week before the St. Patrick's Day. I saw that Rhode Island is having a St. Patrick's 5k next week, and I wanted to participate so badly. I asked my host mom about it and she said it's definitely fine with her. So my host sister, my host mom, and her friend and I decided to participate. We started to run around our neighbor because we wanted to get ready for the race. To participate in the race, we had to dress like an Irish and you could dress silly as long as it was Irish related.

The day came and I was so ready for this. It took near the downtown providence and it was very nice because it was only 5 minute drive to there. Also, it was told that race route pass through our house. We had perfect condition for the race. I dressed with Irish shirt with green knee socks. My host mom helped me putting make up and I was so Irish on that make up. About 3,000 people came for the race according to announcements. It was so funny because everyone was in green. Before the race starts, they played all the Irish music and it reminded me the Ireland. All the music they played

was similar to what I've heard in there.

"Fast runners to the forward, slow runners to the back please." Araceli, my host sister and I went right into the middle. We joked around about being a first place. "Ready, set, GO!" With a loud gun shot, everyone started running. At that moment, I was very proud of myself to sign up for this great thing. We ran and ran. I honestly thought we almost made it to the end. HOWEVER, we just ran 1 mile. It was so funny. We ran about 2miles and walked 1 mile. It was very nice because everyone who lived near came out and cheered the runners.

Race ended and volunteers gave out the medals. I was so proud that I finished. We walked to the booth to grab a pizza and banana. It was so delicious and it made me happy. It was so nice to participate in this race and St. Patrick's Day.

-12기 정지우



Spring Breakers



Easter break, also known as spring break, is a big holiday in American culture. This holiday started with the celebration of the reincarnation of Jesus Christ. Since the most of North American population are Christians, this culture spread throughout for decades and made it an official holiday break. It usually goes for a week give or take couple days.

My spring break experiences as an international student is different than most of us. Spring break of 2014, I went to Disney World in Orlando with my host family, the Vances. I was very fortunate to join them. The next year I moved in with the Blevins since I'm in high school. Spring break of 2015, I visited my host mom, Marcie's best friend in Florida. We were at the beach, Sea World, and Bush Gardens every-day. This year, Spring break of 2016, I went to Myrtle Beach, South Carolina with the Blevins. Actually my host grand parents bought a town house there because Kylie and Taylor, my host sisters, goes to Coastal Carolina university and Luke, one of my host brother, soon to join them when he transfers to Coastal. My day by day itinerary is like this:

Day 1

After 9 hour drive, we arrived to the townhouse and everyone was so exhausted. Before we could even complain we had more work to do. We had to move in all the furniture. Joel, my youngest host brother had to move 4 mattresses up the narrow steps upstairs. Of course ev-

eryone was pouring with sweat. We rewarded ourselves by going out for dinner. 'Sticky Finger' was old rock n roll restaurant with modern design. There were pictures of Muddy Waters which was intriguing. I only ordered a salad but the appetizer, especially the fried pickles where to die for.

Day 2

There was not much to do today. It was raining so we just decided to load the house with some new furniture. Marcie, Taylor and I went to Home Depot, Lowe's, World Market, Home goods, Ross, and Target. Because of Marcie and her dedication to find the paver, I discovered some cute furniture stores.

Day 3

As a tradition of the Blevins (or most of the families who celebrates easter), easter egg hunt is a must. It was pretty tense between all the kids to find all the eggs Most of them has candies in them, but jackpot! Taylor and I each found the ones with \$5 in them. We packed all the candies and headed out for mass. Easter Mass is a big deal here. There was a theatre mass near by at our town house. Hundreds of people attended each mass. After, in the drizzling rain, we headed to a restaurant, 'Croissant', for brunch. It's a small bistro/bakery in a vintage neighborhood. The menus were amazing, it was hard to choose. I got the Egg Benedict which came with toasted baguette and hash browns. Also took a picture of Kylie's Pretzel bun sandwich, It looked so good that I couldn't help it. And I shared a fruit tart and lemon bar with Kylie for dessert. We left the restaurant promising to comeback before we leave Myrtle Beach.

Day 4

Finally the rain stopped and sun came out. I started the morning by walking the dogs, Myrtle and Brownie. At last we could go to the beach as I wished. I need some tan before I leave. Marcie, Taylor, Kylie, Seth, Joel and suited up and headed to the beach. I was able to take 2 hour nap under the sun. I might have gotten a little burnt than tanned. But I was at my happy place so it didn't matter. After, we stopped by at Sweetfrog to grab some frozen yogurt for the thirst and heat. It just melted in my mouth. As we got home, Pat, my host dad was done with the Barbeque pork that he cooked on the grill all day. After dinner I was too tired, I fell asleep as soon as I got to my room.

Day 5

It was another sunny day, Marcie thought the house needed more color in and out of the house. So we went to get some plants, flowers and other decorations. Then we headed to the beach without a question. It's very soothing for me on the sand and jumping in to the cold water when it gets too hot. We had an early dinner at a Mexican restaurant and went golfing. Of course it's mini golf, also known as



Putt Putt. I actually had so much fun. We dragged out fatigue body back to the house and cuddled up for a movie night.

Day 6

Since Seth, Joel and Pat left early for a soccer tournament so it's just the girls enjoying the vacation. Marcie and I ran some errands, went to a souvenir shop to buy post cards and a Myrtle beach shirt. Then we came back to the house, got dressed for a night out at Charlestown. We loaded everyone on the car and headed to Charlestown. We made a reservation at 'Blossom' but we arrived early so we went for a walk around the town. The market we went into was extremely crowded. They were crafts, food, paintings, they were breathtaking. We finally got into the restaurant and I ordered this amazing wood oven pizza. I just slept through the whole way with a stomachful of happiness.



Day 7

I finally got to see what Coastal Carolina University looked like. It's a huge campus spread through out the whole city. They have 3 different district apartments, golf course taking over a whole neighborhood, Amazing service and access in food, library, recreation, it was just an amazing campus. And Kylie's dorm room was bigger than I thought. After Kylie and Taylor were done with their classes we went to the beach with the dogs. Kylie and I did some beach workouts for the summer. You ladies might want to get started too! However making all the work useless, we went to 'Mellow Mushroom' and ordered a pizza for each person. Kylie rushed to her social and Taylor, Marcie and I were left to go to Broadway. Broadway is a park that has stores, food trucks, and small rides. There were so much things I wanted to



do and wanted to buy but I bought a keychain to keep the memory.

Day 8

Last day in Myrtle Beach is sad, but to make it worse, it started pouring. I wanted to spend the rest of my day before I left on the beach but that hope was crushed. We just had a lazy morning, went grocery shopping for both girls and hit the road. I'm going to miss them. Marcie and I packed the car with road trip snacks and headed home. My spring break ended with an 8 hour drive.

-12기 김지수



Trip to Washington, D.C.



Most schools have started their spring break recently and so did my school! Yayy! Many of my friends were planning and talking about their plans about their break. So my host family and I started planning on our trip for the break! I was so excited about it and started searching of the cities or towns where we all can have fun but not far. Then, we came up with Washington, D.C. and Philadelphia. After thinking about it for a while, we all agreed to go to D.C. because we felt like D.C. would be more beneficial since it is the capital city of the country!

On March 28th, Monday, my host family and I left home at 6:30 in the morning. The only reason we left so early was because of "Spy Museum" which I'll talk about more details later. We drove about 2 hours from my house to the metro station in Maryland. Then we got a one day free pass metro ticket and took the metro for another 30 minutes.

The first thing we did was Spy Museum. It is a very famous museum so you have to go really early because later, it gets really crowded and you have to wait for hours to get it. Since we got

there early enough, we did not have wait at all. I learned all different things about spies and James Bond. It was just something that I've never seen before.

Then we started "the real tour" of D.C. To give you an idea, D.C. has a lot of things to look at so you have to be ready to walk A LOT. We, then, went to a trip center to ask what the best plan of trip would be. The guide said the best way is to go to the White House, Einstein statue, Lincoln Memorial, Monument, Korean War Veteran Memorial and then Smithsonian Museum.

For me, the most memorable places were the White House and Korean War Veteran Memorial. I was impressed by the White House, because I was just awed by the building itself. I was truly touched when I got to Korean War Veteran Memorial because many people were there and all of them were thanking the veterans in silent. I was surprised that people were thanking the veterans even though they were not Koreans. I realized that history can unite the world.

The trip really was a great trip and I learned a lot from this trip. This attracted me a little bit into history, and just in case people wonder, I HATE HISTORY. But this history made me want to learn history more. This trip was really meaningful.

-12기 김예나



Girls' Day Out



If someone asks me for the best benefit of living with a host family, I would say the opportunity to make a second home in a foreign country. I don't mean just making a relationship with your host mom and dad or with your host brothers/sisters, but you become a part of an entire family, just like the one you have in Korea. You will have aunts and uncles, and you will also become a niece to them. It is tough to fully blend into the family, but the more time you spend with them, the more you will feel comfortable around them and be yourself. For me, the feeling that I belong to this family struck me hard when I spent a girls' day out with my aunts and host mom.

The girls' day out was planned for grandma as her birthday gift from the family. So the day started with a brunch at Aunt Teresa's house. A total of eight people came: Sharon (my host mom), Aunt Teresa, Aunt Helen, Aunt Mary Ann, Grandma, Alexis, Alexis' mother in law, and



myself. It was great because it was my first time having an only-girls day ever since I came to the states. The menu for brunch was mimosas, Geek yogurt with berry granola, French toast bake, and spinach bacon quiche. We took our time, talked, and enjoyed the moment.

After brunch, we went down to the Broadway Theater of Pitman, New Jersey for the show. The show we watched was called *The Seven Year Itch*. It was about this man named Richard Sherman, who has quite a wild imagination and is married for seven years. While his wife, Helen, and son, Ricky, are spending their summer in Maine, Richard comes back to his apartment because Ricky accidentally left a kayak paddle behind. As Richard has an imaginary conversation with Helen about how he is irresistible to women and she laughs at it, a tomato plant crashes into his chair in his balcony. The woman upstairs apologizes for accidentally knocking it over, Richard invites her for a drink. As they have a conversation and spend more time together, Richard's imagination becomes wilder. However, on the other side, he warns himself for failing the temptation of the "Seven Year Itch". After a while, fearing Helen's retribution, Richard leaves the girl behind and runs off to catch the train to Maine to be with Helen and Ricky. Throughout the show, we kept laughing because of some funny lines, and actor's face expression.

For dinner, we went to an Italian restaurant that was nearby the theater. One thing unique about this restaurant was that we brought our own wine. Because the majority of the people at the restaurant were Italian and spoke Italian, the authentic atmosphere of the restaurant made me feel like I was at a restaurant in Italy. Aunt Teresa, my host mom, Aunt Helen, Aunt Mary Ann, and I ordered different dishes so that we can share food and try a little bit of each other's. All of us were satisfied with their food and complimented the chef for making such a delicious dish.

Spending a day might not seem to be a great deal, but it was my personal point where I started treating them as if they are my own family and feel comfortable being with. If you feel like you are not close to your host family enough, why not take a day off and spend a day with them? You will find yourself feeling the belongingness.

-12기 이지원



Antique Shops



Shopping at antique shops became one of my hobbies after I started to live with my current host family. As we drive or walk down a street, we often find these shops and go in! Digging up something special and memorable from a pile of old crafts gives me a feeling of achievement, happiness and even a thrill. Shopping at the antique shops is slightly different from shopping at normal malls. Since most of the shops are containing lots of things all together, they look unorganized or even untidy. However, they surely have precious artifacts. To catch these, paying "extra" attention is very important. Sometimes, I even look around a shop several times to make sure that I did not miss anything. It is always exhilarating to find objects that are both valuable and cheap.



One of my favorite things to shop at the these stores is a post-card. Old postcards with adorable illustrations or meaningful quotes have their own warm, fuzzy feeling, Collecting them really gives me a pleasure and encouragement to write more to people. I actually still keep in touch with my last host family

and send them lots of letters and cards. It is such a great way to tell them how much I care about them.

Although there are a few people who think that the antiques were futile junks, I recommend them to give a few shots. Of course, some stores are disappointing and unpleasant, but it does not mean that there is no awesome shop at all. Here are some tips for antique shopping starters. First, check the payment terms. There are quite many shops that only take cash. Second, negotiating price is fine unless a product has a "firm" tag. Last, inspect antique and vintage goods for damage before purchase. Well, get ready and enjoy shopping!

-12기 정은교



New Hampshire Trip !



Really? We really are going to a trip? Hooray! I was so excited when my host mom announced about a trip to us. She said that we will be going to New Hampshire during spring break. Since New Hampshire is well known for the ice castles, she said we will be going to see them and spend a night in hotel. I was so pumped even though we had two more weeks till then. One of my dreams in bucket list was to see an ice castle, and now I get to see them. Two weeks passed by fast. I think it was because I've been thinking about it whole time. I was packing my bag and my host mom told me and my host sister that we need to go to bed early today. I wondered why, and she told it's because we have a long way drive waiting for us. 6am, by leading of our body, we hopped into the car. After the three and half hours' drive, we FINALLY arrived. We first went to the tubing park. We originally planned to go see ice castle and go tubing, but the parking lady told us that ice castle looks much nicer at the night.

There was barely any line and I think that made our trip more exciting. It is so annoying when you have to wait in the lines. The lady who gave us tickets said that we were very lucky because all of the areas near the ice castle are always very crowded during this time of the year. Tubing was extremely fun. I always had been to sledding, but not tubing. This was my first time. I first was confused what to do with big doughnut shaped thing, but soon as I went up, I got pushed very hard by one man and started to enjoy. It was so fun and fast. I later went on with my host mom and sister and we had no control. We all got soaking wet from the snow but it was so fun.

We then walked around the tubing park to see if there is anything left to do. And we saw all the fun stuffs. Thank

Goodness, what if we left! Mountain coaster, giant drop, and zip lines were waiting for us. My favorite was the mountain coaster. It was about 10 minute rides, and route was spread all through the mountains. Cold breeze and fast speed made me feel so happy.

Day has fallen and it started to get darker. We were starving and found a Mexican restaurant on the way to ice castle. It was very antic inside and very Mexican. I love their special homemade salsa, which was very spicy. It was time to go to an ice castle, and we drove. As we arrived, I saw the longest line ever waiting to go in. My host mom wisely bought tickets before so we didn't had to wait. OH MY GOSH.

This was the first and all words I said inside of an ice castle. It was absolutely gorgeous and so cool. I was so happy to have an opportunity to have this experience. Yeah New Hampshire!

-12기 정지우