

First off I would like to thank Scan Design, who funded our trip to Denmark, my instructor Jeffry Curtis, who has set up this trip for the last 7 years and the Danes that graciously invited us into their homes and showed us a very good time. While I was on this trip I got to experience Denmark in a very unique way instead of just being a tourist I got to do what normal people my age would do. I got to go to work with my host family as well as go to school and take some of their classes.

Our first couple nights in Denmark were spent in the capital of Copenhagen, where we went to the Diesel House which is a museum dedicated to diesel engines made by B&W. their main display is an old diesel generator from the 1930's that use to power the city. Luckily while we were there we got to watch it fire up and run for a few minutes. It was incredible to watch this old engine fire right up and purr. After they turned it off we got a chance to talk to the head mechanic that ran the engine. He was full of information and you could tell he was thrilled to have someone to talk to about his baby. While we were in Copenhagen we got some free time to wonder around the city. That day I think we walked about 15 miles from one side of the city to the other. It was exciting for me to see such old buildings and learn the history behind them.

After Copenhagen we went to the other side of the country to Esbjerg where the school is and where we met up with our host families. From there we split up me and Matt went north with our host families, and Jono and Blu went with their families. My host family lived in a small town about an hour and a half from Esbjerg call Thyboron. My host family was great and we got along really well I even got the chance to go to my host families' soccer game and spend the evening with his friends which was a great experience, it was nice to see how alike we really are. The person I was staying with really made me feel welcome, he was always asking me what I wanted to do or see next and his family and friends were also very warm and welcoming. It seemed like everyone we talked to was very kind and willing to help us when we were lost. While we were with our families we got to go to work with them and see what they work on. The person I was staying with was a shipbuilder and he worked on big fishing boats. It was interesting for me because I was working on yachts at the time so I got to see the heavier side of the marine industry.

Once we were done with work we went back to a small town just outside Esbjerg called Ostberg. There our host families had rented us a summer house so we could all be closer and

spend more time together. Their instructor had set up a few classes with other program for us so we could see the whole school. We got to spend a day in the machine shop, the culinary class and the brick layers class. I found that their educational system is quite a bit better than ours they are trained from a younger age in whatever field they choose, and they have a much broader education instead of just being a welder, a mechanic or a pipe fitter, they are all 3, and quite good at their jobs for only being in their 20's. I was very impressed and their instructors was very helpful. On our last day at the school there was a retirement party for Karsten one of their instructors. I was honored to be a part of it and I hope enjoys retirement.

Overall the trip was mind blowing and has opened my eyes to a much bigger world. I am very grateful to have gone on this trip and I fully plan on making a trip back to Denmark and see my host family again and all the good friends I made over there.

Sincerely,

Griffin Breck