



The experiences we encounter throughout life shape the people we become. At the current moment, I am a sixteen year old girl from Concord, North Carolina. My ways of life are based on what I have grown up with here in the United States. Going to China and spending 14,000 minutes of my life there would impact my life greatly. This trip would introduce me to international students, the culture and life styles of China, and the historical landmarks of China. All of these wonderful experiences that I would gain and create with others would make this trip to China truly a once in a lifetime opportunity.

One of the ways this trip would enrich the person I am is by introducing me to people and students from all around the world. Meeting these international students would allow me the opportunity to learn of cultures in other countries and how these differences have altered each individual's life style from the type I am accustomed to. In this aspect of the trip, it would be my hope to bridge the communication gap and make new friends whom I could learn from. Being able to talk of the ways in which we have individually grown up and the pieces of our life that we hold most dear would grant me such insight that I could learn all that I might take for granted and the things I should respect and cherish more.

Secondly, spending 14,000 minutes in China would impact my life by introducing me to Chinese culture and their ways of life. By traveling and spending time in China, I could observe the types of houses they live in and learn what a house might say of a family's well-being. Also, I would hope to learn the roles of each family member and what their expectations are that must be fulfilled. With this family complex, I would seek to learn the typical meals eaten daily and the importance of meal time, whether it be to socialize with friends or to be spend with family and embrace one another's company. Traveling through cities would expose me to the lifestyles that are custom in China as well as what cities have to offer an individual. I would hope to understand the impact economics has on lifestyle and cities as well as social rank. Here in the United States I find that economics rules a majority of lifestyles and is the fuel to a working, powerful city. Within these cities I would learn of the means of transportation available, used, and most vital to the ordinary lifestyle. I would be curious to learn of the most common forms of celebration and entertainment along with the holidays held and religions practiced in China. As I learned of these and other aspects of culture and life, I would think



on the culture and customs of the life I have grown up with and assess the new insight I would gain on Chinese culture to understand why we might value certain aspects of life differently.

The last major aspect of this trip that would greatly impact my life would be the historic landmarks which I would be able to visit while staying in China. I know very little of Chinese history other than the standardized information students of the United States learn in school. With this being said, I know that the history of a country helps to shape the nation it thereafter becomes. Being able to visit such historic sites as the Great Wall of China and the Bund, which was considered the “Wall Street of the East”, would provide insight on why they are important to the history of China. Their importance could act as a gateway to the lifestyles that have become common in China and the roles of each individual as well. Also, being able to visit the capital of China would allow me to truly understand why it was proclaimed the capital and the importance it holds in the history of China. I would also hope to learn from the historic sites we would visit, how the emperors contributed to the development of China today and the reasons behind China being Communist. These historic sites would enable my mind to critically think and analyze some of these questions I possess and hopefully provide me with a new appreciation for all the beauties of China I may come in contact with along this captivating journey.

Traveling to China and spending 14,000 minutes of my life immersed in the rich culture and history of such a place would truly impact my life to the greatest extent. I feel as though a chance for such an opportunity is amazing and I would embrace every second spent in China on this trip. It is my greatest goal in life to learn from others and take what I have learned and apply it directly to my life. The chances this trip offers would be kept with me forever and would shape the type of adult I will one day become. Being part of such an enriching experience would provide a new source of knowledge that would impact how I think about my life in the United States, pushing me to take part in the opportunities that will make me stronger, and developing a new appreciation for the possessions I have. Overall, this journey would open new doors to international friendships to last a lifetime, a newfound respect for different cultures, and a willingness to face change and embrace all that life has to offer. I feel as though this experience would stay with me forever and help me find a way to make a difference in the world. Also, it would help me to become a better teacher further down the road to teach



Educational Tours

Jennifer M
Concord High School
Concord, NC

Global Citizen winning essay

eftours.com/globalcitizen

my students that life isn't black and white, there is always a new outlook on life, and that the best way to learn all that life has to offer is to learn from others. In conclusion, this trip is an amazing, life changing opportunity that if I am lucky enough to be chosen, would be embraced with the deepest gratitude and I would retain all of the memories and information attained so that I can apply it throughout the rest of my life.