

FAWCO Youth Program 2018

My name is Nicklas Neubauer and I took part in the FAWCO youth program 2018 in Berlin.

On the first day our Host parents picked us up at the airport and we had lunch together. After that we went to a city tour. I really liked the guide and it was nice to get to know stuff about the city at the beginning. I also liked the dinner afterwards, even though the food wasn't the best, it was fun to get to know each other while eating and watching football.

On the second day we just were doing some teambuilding and talked about our expectations about the week. The only bad thing about that day to be mentioned was, that we sat inside the whole day because of the bad weather.

On the third day we started of with a few presentations at the *Migration Hub*. It was hard for me to understand the presentation because my English isn't the best and they talked with a very strong accent, but besides that I liked it that every single organisation told us what they are doing and who we are helping. Afterwards we met a 96 year old Holocaust survivor which was very interesting. I was a little disappointed because I thought it would be more of a conversation but she read out of her book most of the time. At the third part of the day we went to a place for children who weren't able to live with their parents any more. We helped *Serve the City* to do their garden. I really enjoyed talking to the children and playing football with them after it.

On the fourth day we went to the TV Tower but it was to foggy to go up, so we met Karen's friend Tom instead. He was very funny and he told us some interesting stories about life. That was probably my highlight of the day. In the afternoon we went to a school for refugee women. We normally should do some babysitting but the kids didn't show up so we did gardening with some students. Afterwards we had dinner at Karen's place.

On the fifth day we painted the apartments at the *Ronald McDonald House* and packed some welcome baby bags at *Evas Arche* which I really liked.

On the sixth day we started at the DDR Museum . We had a tour which I think was too long. We spent too much time on some things so we weren't able to have a look at everything. Afterwards we went to a Graffiti Tour which was really interesting. I think it was great that our tour guide was a real Berliner. In the evening we cooked Syrian food with refugees. It was a lot of fun and I enjoyed talking with them.

On the seventh day we were at My-Linhs house. We reflected on the week and talked about what we expected of the week on the first day. We finished our group video before we went to the American Church to feed the homeless people which I really enjoyed because its great to see the people you are helping. After that we went to restaurant run by Syrian refugees.

On the last day we were at the Fourth of July party before we went to the airport and went home.

Before the programme I wasn't sure if I would like it because I never volunteered before, but afterwards I am very happy that I took part because it was really fun and I met a lot of new friends. I think one week was a bit short because we only got really confident talking to each other on the last evening. But still I would recommend this program and I appreciate the work of the people who made this happen.