

FAWCO Youth Program Cultural Volunteer Berlin 2018

Sophie Romain

I would like to thank the FAWCO Youth Program coordinators for giving me the amazing opportunity to participate in the Cultural Volunteer week in the city of Berlin. A place filled with culture and history, a place where I collected lifelong memories and experienced a vibrant city that allowed me to meet inspiring people. I feel very fortunate to have had the privilege to participate in the FAWCO Youth Program and to be a cultural volunteer in Berlin.

The week in Berlin brought me many things. It not only taught me a lot of interesting facts about German history and Berlin's culture but also gave me access to far deeper personal insights. I learned to cherish my life, my family and my friends more profoundly by participating in various activities. For instance, the afternoon we spent feeding the homeless taught me to be grateful for all that I have and to also value even the little things in life.

During the course of the program I had the chance to meet Cultural Volunteers from other FAWCO clubs from around the world. I made a lovely new friend with whom I will definitely remain in contact. I have FAWCO to thank for fostering this friendship. We even introduced our respective mothers to one another. The Cultural Volunteer program created a real sense of comradery amongst the participants and as just mentioned, in my case even beyond! All in all a beautiful reflection of the FAWCO spirit of comradery.

In one short but fully packed week I was showered with a wide scale of information and had the opportunity to see a lot more of Berlin than I ever anticipated in such a short period of time.

The chosen tour guides were perfectly fitting to our young (and not always easy ☺) generation mindset and had a very light and entertaining manner of explaining and talking to us which kept out attention and interest. This was especially helpful and fun.

The "volunteer" portion of the program offered me the opportunity to engage in a different type of assistance to those in need. Furthermore, I gained a deeper sense of awareness of true hardship in a country which is considered a rich and developed economy - right around me. We do not have to travel to Africa or South America to help others.

I would like to thank the organizers for creating and successfully leading an engaging, inspiring and entertaining program. It was filled with such diverse activities which I enjoyed taking part in. I would especially like to express my personal thanks and gratitude to My-Linh for her very inspiring and captivating presence and leadership throughout the program.

A big thank you also to my host family Emi and Dave Bevacqua for their generous and warm hospitality and for making me feel so much at home.

Thank you for this precious and enlightening experience.

With warm appreciation,
Sophie Romain

