



Danish American Language Foundation
Preserve and Promote the Danish Language and Culture in America

Student Testimony

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Location of School/Camp: Balle Dansk Sommerskole

Out of all 5 of the years I've gone to the Danish Summer School, this year has been the best one yet. But don't get me wrong, every year has been amazing. As a third culture kid, I've always really struggled with where my home is. Being Danish and Filipino while living in the U.S. has always been a bit hard in terms of finding where I belong, and I know other people from the summer school who feel the same way alienated by all three of their cultures. But den Danske Sommerskole is honestly one of the places I feel most at home and most comfortable. Being with other kinds who go through the same thing as me and also come from the same background is somehow very comforting, so we all get along really well.

But the summer school isn't just a middle place to see someone who lives too far from you. We also attend classes where we learned about Denmark, its culture and of course, the Danish language. These classes are actually really helpful, because we are sorted into classes based off of our knowledge level of Danish. That has been very helpful because learning with people who are the same level as you makes the classroom a place where you aren't afraid to make mistakes. The classes effectively help you learn about Danish words, grammar and culture. This year, I attended the oldest school, Vejstrup. At this school we have the option of two other programs, instead of taking normal classes. You are able to take the 9th grade exam, or you are able to take a program called 'Tilbage til Danmark', or 'Back to Denmark'. It's a program for kids who will be moving back to Denmark sometime soon, and that's the program I was in this year. I won't be moving back to Denmark for a few years, but I do hope to move there for university.

My favorite part about summer school, besides meeting new people and seeing old friends, is our trip to Copenhagen. We go on a culture trip with our class, and then take the rest of the day to go to Tivoli, a really fun amusement park in Copenhagen.

Overall, the Danish summer school is one of the best experiences of my life. I've gone back for 5 year and each year it gets better. Genuinely, I miss the three weeks of summer school for the rest of the year, and count down the days with my friends. To me, Den Danske Sommerskole is kind of like my true home.