



## Country of possibilities

America started to amaze me from the very beginning. Absolutely different understanding of life, another culture, etc. But it was just first impression.

I'm exchange student from Kazakhstan. My country situated in the very center of Eurasia and even when status of country is high-industrial, our infrastructure and community service has a lot to be desired. Also majority of Kazakhstan's population is Islamic and it really affects the way people behave, especially for women. And that's why a lot of things about USA's way of living seem to me very different.

What absolutely amazed me the most in USA is freedom of choice and great support of any business. And that confirms by USA school system of education. I mean sport supporting and incredible school spirit. At my school, back in Kazakhstan, students haven't got a possibility to change school management, we even haven't got a school student government! But here is- student government, school spirit, cheerleading, scholar bowl - anything you can dream about! So I tried to catch my chance and in the very first days I tried out for a school management system. And now I'm a Junior Stuco Representative. It's so much fun! When all members join together we are discussing prom arrangements details, homecoming and lots of another stuff. I just think I couldn't feel more part of the school then I am now! And it's great! I actually feel how my ideas can make a difference! So I went on and became one of senior prom designers! Never before, I thought that wonderful ideas might come from just group of students who use only their imagination. I also won a honor mention from local art competition but I never had art before! That's what I meant when I wrote about freedom. About freedom of imagination. USA is country of possibilities and everybody open for creativity. Even some tests based on creative thinking. Creativity doesn't take a big part in my Kazakh school education. Tests base on questions with certain answers and after 5<sup>th</sup> grade we haven't got choir and art. Also we haven't got any artistic contests, but after my year in US I will make my best to improve my home school and refresh our old boring system with some great new ideas!

## Holidays

Holidays it's every time something special. But unfortunately, at Kazakhstan we don't celebrate so much different holidays and I'm sure that these holiday I met here I will remember for the rest of my life.

## Halloween

One week before Halloween my American friend's family took me to the Pumpkin race out of the town. I swear it was nothing I expected. It was way better! The whole field of orange, red, yellow and even green pumpkins and a little amusement park around! I had a great time! We made a track race where we need to jump over hay bales and fences



and even jump over big hole with water with the swing! Also we were racing on plastic boats in a little lake with alligator toys! They looked just like alive! But real fear began at haunted house! Three floors full of different monsters and labyrinths! First it was scary but then we was just laughing like we gone insane! And somehow all monsters know my name! think it's because my friend was screaming it and pushing me forward. It was just crazy!

On actual Halloween I went big and dressed up as Death. With scary white face and dark ripped clothes on , I was walking house to house with my little host-sisters. But parents kept me away from giving candies to trick-n-threating children because all kids were so cute in those little costumes that I gave away almost all our candies to every one of them☺ .

## Thanksgiving

I'm the member of FCCLA (Future Career Connection Leaders of America) and on Thanksgiving day we was serving dinner for open public at school. We made little apple jellies, green beans, delicious (!) pumpkin pie, stuffed turkey and soup noodles. It was quiet good! Everybody enjoyed that! Also we had special art stand where you could see couple of my works together with another student's works. Then we had a lovely warmdinner with



big turkey and yummy pie at home.

Christmas

But my favorite holiday is Christmas for sure. When it's snowing outside and family all together enjoy the holiday at home. And what a pleasure to do Christmas shopping! Just like from that song "Bright copper kettles and warm woolen mittens...". No accident that this song remind me about Christmas time. Right on Christmas Eve choir with me in it was perform carols before proud parents. Christmas was just like a little bit of fairy tale come true in my life for the while.

I never celebrated these three holidays and what can I say about them? I JUST LOVE IT!

## Sports

I'm enjoying sports but therefore I'm not really good at it. All my efforts to do sports interrupted in early childhood, after first bruises. But when I came to USA I decide to begun everything from the clear list. So I immediately signed up for volleyball, basketball and softball. Volleyball was tough. But it was just an easywarm-up compared to what waiting for me. The real workout began when basketball season started. The first few days I was sore so much that I didn't want to get up from my bed. Every each day we was making 100 bunny hops, a lot of running, jumping and more and more. I was in JV team during volleyball season, so I promised to myself to do my best and be in varsity team at basketball. Even so I am the tallest girl in the team. But absence of experience was obvious so I needed to work really hard to reach what I aimed for. Basketball it's not just physical work, what is already hard for me, but also mental too. You need to learn defense strategy and offence

And finally, our most unforget-my life. Gym school guys with on a stage. I seemed like in coach explaining people cheering on the display... my teammates have 5 fouls and game. I was life before. I'm body watching. on the free proud of myself.



first game. I think the table game ever in full of visitors, our colored faces cheering remember everything slow motion for me, new offense in hurry, on the stage, seconds And then, last quarter, tired, our best player coach put me into the never so exited in my on court and every-I made only one point throw but I was very Even coach said that

he saw a lot of improvement since my first days. And nowhere then there, on a court, you can feel this team spirit and experience the power of teamwork. You are carefully watching your teammates and trying to help them and play with them. Also you are watching, or how our coach says "reading", opposing team. It's just amazing how much work you put in one game. But then, nothing can be more productive then teamwork. It's incredible power and using it right you are walking up the path to success.

Now I'm waiting for softball season. I never played softball before but it's never too late to try!

# Homecoming



Homecoming is the time when gone crazy. Ridiculous clothes, colorful posters and just super-I was dressing up for every each one is "Total mismatch day". I skirt, dress, daddy's boots and rope on neck. In my native city, people watching what they wearing and trying to look



everybody funny contests, awesome party! day! My favorite was wearing jeans, belt from the every time fabulous and chic. my home clothes pajamas even if it's

For example, I cannot go throw away garbage in because people will look at me strangely. But here you can go to school in your not a homecoming week! I like it. I think it's fair when people don't judge you just because of the way you look like.

At our first homecoming we didn't win our football game and it's made our party bitter. But our basketball homecoming was crazy! Girls and JV boys won games were celebrating it as much as we can! Me and several more stu- decorating junior wall and won too! And on homecoming me and my friend Victor was just rocking! Homecoming is those colorful spots in my memory that warming heart make me smile.



a little bit and we dents was dance time and

## P.S

America literally changed my life. I have learn a lot of priceless stuff that will help me become a leader. Some people don't like America's lifestyle and homesick every single day, but some just fall in love with USA and enjoy each and every moment of their life here. I am the second type. I'm enjoying it, I love it, and I'm living it. I have a dream about bright future, will do my best to make my dreams be- reliable career and better world. And I to have right for it's existence:)



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