

Craig Smith: Gap Year in the USA

While on my gap year with FLAG, I was able to meet some amazing people from different countries all around the world who I will stay friends with for years to come. Ben, my host brother from Germany, and the two other exchange students in the same city as me - Chiara from Italy and Mareike also from Germany. We have all stayed friends since leaving the USA and still talk on Facebook and Face-time each other every so often. At the start of my gap year, I did have a few problems with my placement but after it was sorted I was able to start a clean slate with a new and amazing family who took me in over the Christmas period and ended up staying with them for the rest of my gap year which let me have a chance to experience the real USA and I could not thank them enough for that. I was also given the chance to go to New York for a week where I got to meet some more people from different counties and had some amazing times with them that I will never forget.

While in the USA I went to my first American football game which surprisingly was really interesting and a lot different to what I expected. I also made my schools track and field team and ran in the 100m, 800m and the mile which I would never have thought I would be doing before I went out.

Overall I am very grateful I was giving this opportunity to spend a year in America and go to an American high school; it was a shame that the start was stressful but without that I might never have met my second host family and the amazing experience I had with them and also meet my friends at school who helped me through everything and made sure I had the best experience I could have.

