



USA: A year in my life

Alvis Chen

Age 17

My name is Alvis, I was a exchange student who study and live in Indiana, USA for about 10 months and I was live with three different host families with different stories.

The high school I attend was call Liberty Christian School as 10 grade, the school where people there was nice unlike the public school, there wasn't as much of international students as other school, there are only about over 11 international students from different countries.

When I was planning to go there, I was super excited, after a long trip of the flight, I was already exhausted especially when I missed my transfer flight to Indianapolis, I got left behind at the Los Angeles International airport for twelve hours, but after I arrived indianapolis airport, my host family was already waiting for me in the airport, I went out to the arrive gate and saw the host family, we greet to each others and I picked up my luggages then we headed home. On the road to my new home, I saw the stuff that I never seen before, the look of police cars are and the roads.

Later I settle down and had my first american meal with my host family. After I have been resting for few days I went to school, met my teachers and made a lot of friends in the first day, they were very curious about my culture and kept asking questions.

Life is always up and down. After I had been felt the feeling of be lift to the top, it's time for me to go down.

Following the few months after I have live in the US, less people were interested in make friend with me initiativity. Sometime you could just be like a invisible ghost in the hallway. It's not like they don't want to make friend with you but they have already treat

you like a local student. Instead of waiting for others to come to you, I need to get out of my comfort zone.

Later on, the biggest downhill drop me badly, I had a lot of arguments with my host family, those time were really hard for me. I don't talk to my them and stay quiet in my room. Until I finally talk to the local international coordinator, one of my friend ask his grandma to apply host family for me and I moved. Then I met my roommate nick who is from south korea.

But that was not the final, the international coordinate then move my roommate and me to other host family because of the some problem with my host family. I then move in to my last host family which is really loving.

Here I need to mention that the lady who in charge of international student was really caring and responsible, she doesn't want any of international student to be depressed or feeling homesick and sad.

My host mom was my choir teacher and I used to go to trip with them to Washington D.C. They're young, and we talk a lot about each others' culture. I let them tried a lot of chinese food and chinese snacks. Since she is a music teacher, I also show her a lot of chinese music which is really interesting to my host family. I also went to Chicago because of my host family know I like the place like that in America.

And roadtrips is also part of the american culture, people enjoy spending time on the road with their best friends or family. I was in a road trip to a church retreat, and on the way there, we played the "chinese fire drill" which is something that we get of the car in the middle of the road and running around the car in front of other cars.

Sometimes as a teenager, I felt depressed because of a lot of thing in the life, but what matter is that my host family were actually caring about me, they talk to me and took me to counselor, my host mom even cried because what my thought was. I can feel them as my parents.

I also went the first prom in my life, we dressed up, I got my tuxedo, and I asked a girl for the prom, it took a lot of courage. It was very fabulous experience to me.

I experienced a lot and saw a lot of things in this year, but more than that there is something more important than me is the relationship between me and the people who have speed time with me in the past one year. They teach me how to love someone without payback. I was the only boy in choir so they always remember me when we were leaving for concerts, they were already in the people mover and they didn't see me so were looking for me. I perform in a lot of concerts with choir and I can't forget it.

Another thing deep in my memories is the church, it was something I never got know in China, and it is a very important in role in USA, I went to church every sunday morning with my host family. We worship and sang. It taught me a lot, something more spiritual, and I learnt what is call faint instead of a religion. Later I played the guitar for the worship band wednesday evening.

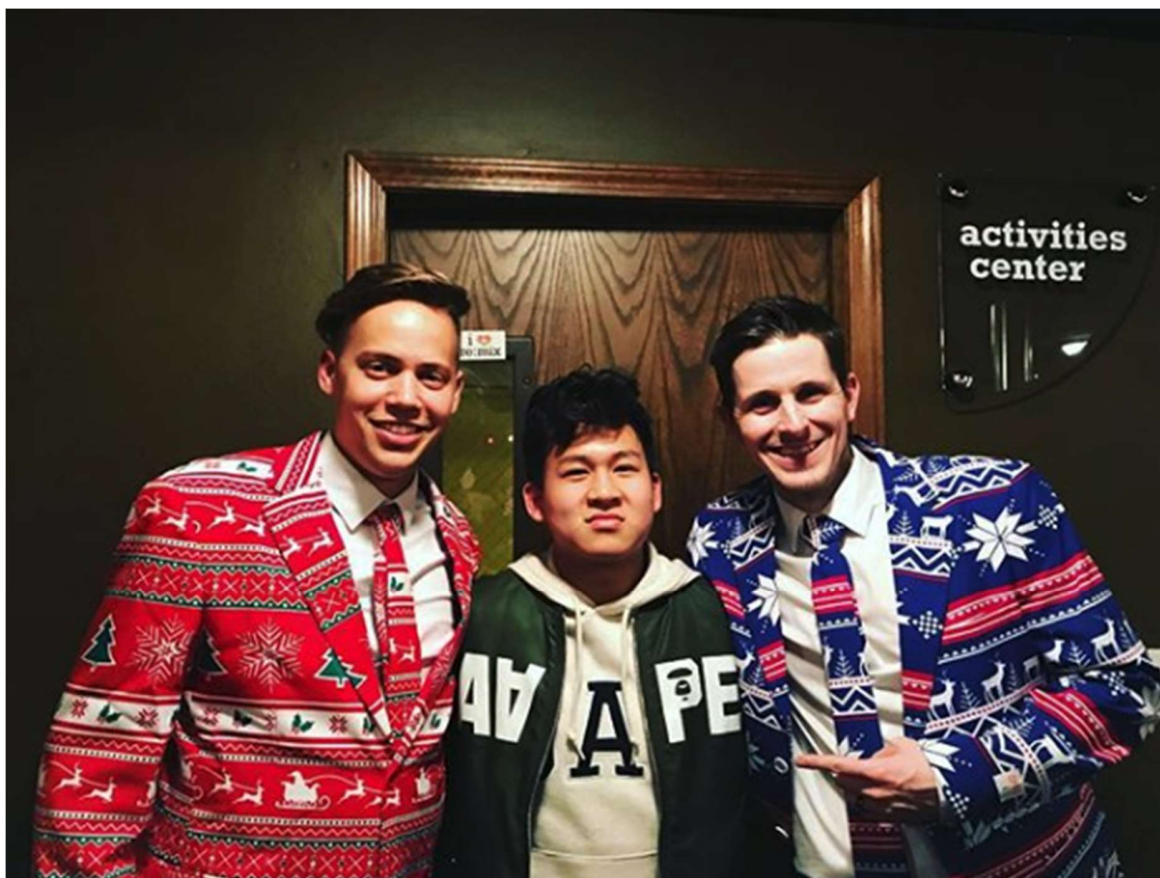
And the was the last week of me staying in Anderson, people were super sad about me leaving. In the last performance our choir had, they all hug me, some of them were crying, I miss them.

Eventually, you can learn bunch by study in us for one year, and there are always something that you can't have in your own country. For me is from city to a small town, how to deal with people that you're not familiar with. Responseability, independent.





This was the picture of prom.



This is the photo when I at church



This is when we won the champion of the retreat





These are more pictures for prom.



This is me and my friends at church



n we went to perform in K



Choir perform in kings island and state house.



We were doing kungfu at church



This is
a picture with my host family and another foreign exchange student in Chicago



Karate Class



This is when my first homestay picked me up in the airport.



First day of the school



and 10 graders

school retreat



Retreat games