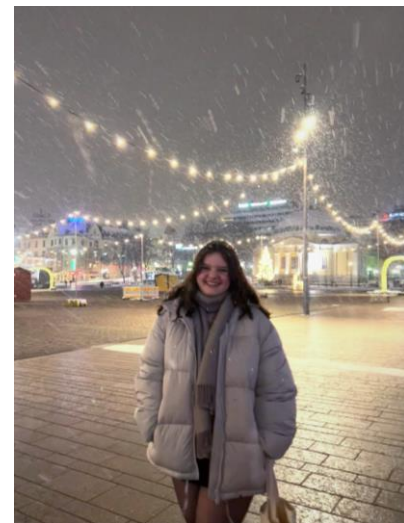




Me and my friends at the Wanhat Dance

Moi! Minun nimi on Norah Turley ja minä oli vaihto-oppilas yksi vuosi Turussa Suomessa. Minä olen kotoisin Pennsylvaniasta, Amerikasta. Nyt, minä olen seitsemäntoista vuotta vanha. Minulla oli neljä isäntäperheet, kolme Turussa ja yksi Paimiossa. Minä oli opiskelija Puolalanmäen Lukiossa. Minun vaihto vuosissa, minä menin myös Ruotsiin, Viroon, Saksaan, Englantiin, ja Lappiin.

Now switching to English, I became friends with many other exchange students, whether I met them in school or through Rotary. I made several friends within my school that were Finnish as well, and even though Finns tend to be fairly quiet, they typically speak fluent, or close to fluent English. I did learn some Finnish throughout the year, although I never became fluent. Finnish is the 5th hardest language to learn for native English speakers, so it doesn't exactly come to you in a few weeks. With that being said, I definitely learned the majority of my Finnish with my fourth host mother. She certainly pushed me the most when it came to learning the language and making sure to speak it whenever I had the opportunity or felt like I could say what I wanted to say in Finnish. I started taking a few online Finnish lessons while I was living in the states at the end of June, but honestly what helped the most was to actually start speaking it and hearing it around me everyday.



Me in the Turku Kauppatori



Me and my friends Mackenzie (USA) and Lio (France) in Muonio, Lapland, Finland

I found out I was going to Finland in early 2022. Unlike some of my other exchange student friends, Finland was high on my list, ranking at number two. My number one choice had been Italy, but I am definitely happy that I was placed in Finland and I think that it was the best fit for me. I decided to place Finland at number two mainly because of its education system and cold climate. Yes, believe it or not I wanted to come to Finland partly to experience the extreme weather. Where I live in the United States, we sometimes have winters where we get no snow at all! Years ago, we got more snow, maybe two or three times each winter, but no so much recently.



*Me and my friend
Mackenzie (USA) in
Muonio, Lapland, Finland*

Some of my best memories in Finland involved the crazy weather, such as when I went on a trip to Lapland through Rotary with the other exchange students. Even though I see a lot of similarities between Finland and The States, Lapland was something completely different to me and felt like a whole other world. During my exchange year, I didn't only stay in Finland though. I got the amazing opportunity because of my fourth host mother to travel to Sweden, Estonia, and Germany. Even when I thought I was done traveling for a while, on my way back to The States, my second flight was canceled and I was stuck in England for an extra day. This gave me and my mom, who had just been visiting me my last week in Finland, the chance to explore London.



*Me and my friend
Acacia (Canada)*

I had so many incredible unexpected opportunities during my year abroad, and it all went by so fast. I'm forever grateful for the experience and if you are reading this and considering going abroad for a year, I can tell you that you will not regret it.



*Me and my friends Kayla (Indonesia), Lio (France),
and Mackenzie (USA)*