

Wednesday December 25 – Thursday Dec 26  
Day 1 – USA to Amsterdam & Apeldoorn  
By: Abby Jandro & Ella Christ  
Northern Lights 16-2

We started off by meeting at the airport. Making our way through security, Ella Christ's new white shoe got stuck in the conveyer belt, leaving a scuff mark. She was devastated. On a happier note, we made it through security just fine and got on the plane. As we got on the plane, we realized it was a fancy international plane and had the middle row with four seats. We also realized we had eight hours to kill. During the flight we were given dinner and breakfast and attempted to sleep for most of it. We all sprawled out on each other trying to find the best sleeping position.

When we finally landed, we were so intrigued by all the people who spoke different languages. We saw a little boy say thank you in the sweetest accent and freaked out for a while. Then, we got our luggage and made our way to the bus. We then went to the Windmill Village and explored for a while. We loved seeing the giant windmills and tried not to get hit by bikers. We went into a wooden shoe shop and a cheese store, both were very interesting. As we were leaving the cheese place, we ran into some chickens. Bailey Leeke even petted one, and Emma Slusser figured out if you place your hand out and pretend to have food, they will come to you!

We then made our way to the cafeteria at Windmill Village, and most of us got some type of pancake, the most popular kind being Nutella and Cream Pancakes, which were delicious. When it was almost time to go to our hotel in Apeldoorn, we used the bathroom in the cafeteria, where we realized their bathrooms were different than ours. In particular, Addy Bzoskie came out and had to ask Abby Stanwood how to flush in front of a line of ladies. And to that Abby said, "Sorry we're Americans".

As we were on our way to the hotel, we had to stop and pick up some Switzerland teams that were staying at the same hotel as us. We introduced ourselves and had each other try to say some tongue twisters from both of our languages. Emma Slusser also asked if they knew what a squirrel was, and they replied with laughs. We finally arrived at the hotel and unpacked. We had dinner, which was a buffet of many different foods, like roast beef, salmon, cheesy potatoes, chicken wings, salad, and veggies.

After dinner, us and the Swiss taught each other different card games. We taught them BS and they taught us a game called "A.....". Hanging out with the Swiss was very fun and we hope we get to meet more teams like them. After that, we all went our separate ways, but some of us were curious about the hotel, so we explored. We found some huge wooden doors, but they were locked, which we later found out they lead outside. Next to the doors was a bathroom and water was dripping but it sounded like someone was in there, so we ran. We later found out it was just a pipe. We also found a very steep staircase leading to an empty conference room with two chairs just sitting in the middle. Lights out was 9:15 but most of us crashed by 8:30.

All in all, day 1 was very fun and filled with laughs. We found out how beautiful the Netherlands is, and we don't want to leave.

Yours truly,  
Abby Jandro and Ella Christ

