

The Young Leaders Academy report by Kira Müller, class 10a

Tuesday the 22.05.18:

Kim and I arrived around 7pm at the "Bundeswehr and Information campus". We had to wait for half an hour before we could „check in“. We had to give the people from the young leaders the academy contribution, the consent form of our parents and our ID. Then we got our name badges and different colored folders that contained our daily schedule. After that we got our room keys and brought our suitcases there. Our room was really awesome! We had a personal bathroom with shower, a little fridge and even a television! We had a late and quick supper. When we got back to our room it was nearly 9pm.

Wednesday the 23.05.18

We got up at around 7:30am. Shortly after 8am we left our room. Unfortunately we were a little bit too late. We had to meet at 8:15am, so we had no time to get breakfast. All of us met up in a huge lecture hall, where the young leaders team quickly introduced themselves. Then we met Professor Nicanor Austriaco from the USA. He also introduced himself and told us what his job was about. He said he was a cancer biologist. He and his students investigated the age process of cells and what it has to do with cancer. But he is also a Christian priest. Meanwhile he's teaching at a university. Since 5 years he's coming to Germany to hold discussions here at the young leaders academy. We talked about human dignity.

Who is worth more? Humans under each other? Animals or plants? Or even God? Why are humans worth more? Can you sell yourself? What is the difference between human and animal? Is it allowed for mothers to marry their daughters? Is it better to lie or to say the truth?

These were just a few of the topics that came up in our long discussion. We had a few little breaks in between. At 5:30pm it was over. After supper Kim and I went back to our rooms. After we had figured out the television we watched TV till 11:30pm and then went to bed.

Thursday the 24.05.18

We got up at 7:30am again and left our rooms shortly after 8am. After a quick breakfast, we sat down in the lobby till we had to meet at 9am in the big lecture hall. Today we met the Commander of the Bundeswehr, the "Kapitän zur See", Christian Dienst. Punctually he began his lecture and told us all about what he did, now and before. Then he began telling us about the Bundeswehr, social layers and opinion making. He also gave us time to hold little discussions, where we could ask him questions like:

"What do you think of artificial intelligence?" and "Why aren't you showing the Bundeswehr like it really is? That people can actually die?" etc. He also talked about the online media of the Bundeswehr and showed us a few videos of their YouTube Channel. At 12:30pm we had lunch break. At 2pm we had another lecture, about the introduction and tolerance of Islam by Dr. Carsten Polanz. We talked about the Islam in Germany, the history of the Islam and historical value of Mohammed. Like the evening before we just watched TV after supper and then went to bed.

Friday the 25.05.18

Today we were working in different workshops. The different colored folders sorted us into different groups. Group Red created a Webmag, Green and Yellow a newspaper and Blue a TV-program. Kim was in Group Red and I was in Group Blue. Our groups met up in different less big lecture halls. There we met our professional journalist from the Bild newspaper, named Friedewald, who supervised our workshop. We spent the time till lunch break, with him teaching us about the basics of journalism. Then he sorted us into different teams. Our topics were: plastic, fake news, military safety, pension and the young leaders academy. My team made a report about the young leaders academy. We began to brainstorm immediately. We even managed to film a bit, in the little time before lunch break. We went to lunch and worked on our interview questions. After that we quickly filmed our interview. After that we went together to the audio studio and watched how our film material was put together. But we soon discovered after a short time, that we had to film the interview again. In the meantime the lectures in the afternoon had already begun, so we quietly joined the others. A few people hold lectures about the topics we made a report about. In the coffee break we filmed the interview successfully again and ate some cake. Now we were done at 3:30pm, but had time till 5pm to finish our work. My team and I sat around listening to music, reading or talking to each other a bit. At 5pm we met up in the big lecture hall to watch our program and the webmag. Our film turned out pretty and we were all content with the final product. We talked about it for a bit, before we went to supper and after that to our rooms.

Saturday the 26.05.18

On Saturday we were sorted into different training groups again. But before the training began, we listened to another lecture about future and pension. After lunchbreak Kim and I went to the train rooms. The training was about body language and presentation. Our trainer was a nice young man, who told us that he studied physics. He taught us pretty easy going about body language. After coffee break we began playing spitfire. You had to deliver a speech about a certain topic, with the words your neighbors gave you. The story didn't have to make sense. Your partner on the right was the angel and gave you words that worked along well with the given topic. Your partner on left however was the demon and gave you very difficult words to work with. After your speech, your group gave you feedback about your body language and how well you delivered the speech. After supper we continued the spitfire and watched a short presentation till 8pm. Back in our rooms we began packing our things together. We had to wake up very early tomorrow, so we wouldn't have had time to pack at the morning.

Sunday the 27.05.18

We woke up at 6:30am and went for a quick breakfast. After that we got packed lunch and moved our suitcases into the bus. We drove one hour to the former Stasi-Maximum security prison in Berlin-Hohenschönhausen. There we were welcomed by our guides, who were former inmates of the Stasi-prison. Our guide was an older man. He told us he was a diehard Pink Floyd fan and was arrested because he and his rock band played the wrong songs. He told us many things that he experienced firsthand, that he was arrested several times, the longest being nearly two years. Someone out of my group was not feeling well, so we made a small break and he went to comfort her. Around 12pm we drove to the Berlin Central Station. But a demonstration blocked the street, so we had to walk the rest of the way. 13:28pm departed our train to home.