

Beth Hanneman, IFYE to Greece (3 months) and Estonia (3 months):

Ya Sas From Greece

My time here in Greece is coming to a close, and I cannot describe how much I am going to miss the people, the food, the culture, and the friendships. What an amazing country!!! Greece does not have a 4-H program like we have in America. However, the IFYE Exchange is through the American Farm School located in Thessaloniki, the second largest city in Greece. I was blessed to stay with seven different host families ranging from small villages in the mountains to even Athens.

I know many tuned in to see the Olympic Games during the last couple of weeks. (Weren't they just amazing?!?) In all the restaurants or locate cafes, they had big screen TVs on covering the Olympics. (It reminded me of Football season back in the States!!)

On a typical day, Greeks will get up about 8:00 in the morning, have breakfast and then head to work at about 8:30. At 2:00, shops will close and everyone will head home for lunch and an afternoon rest/nap. At 5:30 in the evening, the shops will again open until about 9:30-10:00 at night. (I have gotten used to the afternoon naps. Very, very nice!)

Family is very important to the Greeks: many live right beside or near by their grandparents, aunts and uncles, and lots of cousins. One of the families that I lived with had the grandparents living with them in their homes, and another had an older sibling and their children living upstairs. They are so welcoming and kind that I trully felt apart of the family! Greeks really know how to live and enjoy life.....tears come to my eyes as I think about my experience coming to a close, but I know that I will always have a part of Greece with me everywhere I go! Thank you to everyone who made me about of the Greek Family!

Next I have 12 days of free time, and then I report to Estonia to continue my IFYE experiences.

Beth Hanneman, IrYE 2004 Greece and Estonia