

Beth Hanneman, 10/22/04  
2004 IFYE to Estonia, from Virginia:

Tere from Estonia!

I am having a wonderful time here in Estonia! The last host family that I stayed with were two high school teachers. The grades in Estonia are divided into two groups; for example, the 10th grade would be 10a and 10b. One group will focus more on languages and the other group will focus more on sciences. As a group, they will have the same classes together throughout the day. I had so much fun talking to the different classes about myself, 4-H, and the USA. I got the typical questions of "What type of music do you listen to?" and "What do you do for fun?". But my favorite was "Do you have a lot of twins in America?"

I am currently staying with two college teachers and their children. I got to go to Tartu University, which is the oldest university in Estonia and was founded in 1632, and sit in on a few classes! They have three boys and one girl. The little girl is two and has been helping me learn more Estonian. I enjoy them so much that we all joke that I will stay on and be the new Nanny from America!

I got to travel to the city of Narva on the Northeast corner of Estonia. It borders Russian, so it is one of the towns where the European Union ends. It was so interesting to see all the border guards, as well as Russia, which was only across a small river. There are two castles on either side of the banks. I attended a Library conference in a the castle. (Way cool, in the states it is usually just in a hotel!) It was National Library day so many famous authors were reading out loud in different libraries across the country.

Having a great time!

Beth Hanneman, 2004 IFYE to Greece and Estonia