The Reflection of China Trip - Language, Culture and Competition

Chivas Powers
Hello. My name is Chivas Powers and I was the Southern California representative this year for the Hanban Chinese competition for secondary students. The trip started on the 13th of October. We flew into Beijing and upon catching a bus to our hotel, we met our first of the many friends we would make on this trip. We toured many historic monuments like the Great Wall of China, the Summer Palace, and the Forbidden City. While traveling to these monuments around Beijing, I also began to utilize my Spanish with many of the Spanish speaking countries like Uruguay, Argentina, Dominican Republic, and Mexico just to name a few. I also met people from several other countries like France, Australia and England.

After spending the weekend in Beijing, we took a plane to Kunming. We did so many different activities while in Kunming like visit local museums, go to host family’s houses for authentic local meals, and go shopping downtown. Also, we got to attend classes that were taught at the University. Two classes that I had the most fun in were Archery and the traditional tea ceremony. I found the archery class to be very interesting because the style of shooting was very unlike the way we shoot bows and arrows in America. Our time in Kunming depended on the student volunteers of the university.

The college students of Kunming Normal University were some of the most accepting people I've ever met. My volunteer did whatever she could do to help make our trip more interesting and more fun for the competitors, the chaperones, and the observers.

Last but not least, the people on this trip were amazing. Everyone quickly began making friends with people from around the world. I met many of the people from Africa and they could walk in a room and make everyone smile. They shared their culture as well as share some of their language. Everybody on this trip made this competition so exciting and gave me so many memories to bring back home to America. Thank you Hanban for the amazing opportunity and not only for being able to help improve my knowledge about the Chinese culture and language but also for allowing me to make the many friends I have made on this trip.