Chinese Bridge Competition

Jenna Permann
Hello, my name is Jenna Permann and I was an observer for the American team at the 9th Chinese Bridge Competition. I'm 16 years old, and have been learning Chinese for one year. This trip was an amazing opportunity and experience as I was able to make great friends with Chinese students and people that came from all over the world, learn about Chinese language and culture, and visit amazing historical sites. When we arrived in Beijing, we got to do many things.

We went to the Great Wall, which was one of my favorite things. We also got to try great food like Peking Duck, which I was so happy about! Being able to actually experience the history you've always been told about is surreal. Seeing these beautiful places made this trip so memorable.

When we went to Kunming, we started to really start talking to each other. I soon made friends with people from places like Russia and Kenya! It was crazy seeing all of our differences but being able to bond over knowing the same language. For example, I met a girl who didn't speak English, and even though it was difficult for us to talk, she became one of my best friends.

In Kunming we got to go to the local high school. This was one of my favorite parts, because we got to learn about culture and dances, and the students were amazing. They were all so nice and excited to meet us, and were so fun to talk to! My partner and I even danced together and had such a fun time. On top of that, we had a chance to visit one student's house and eat dinner with their family. It was a great chance to practice my Chinese, make new friends, eat good food, and learn more about Chinese lifestyle.

Overall, this trip was amazing. I learned so much, met some of the most amazing people, and saw stunning historical sites. I'm so grateful to have had this amazing opportunity, as it was such an unforgettable experience. Thank you Chinese Bridge!