



STEBUEN-SCHURZ-GESELLSCHAFT E.V.

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## My Intern Experience in Frankfurt, Germany *Abenteuerspiele and Mainspiele as a benefit for my studies*

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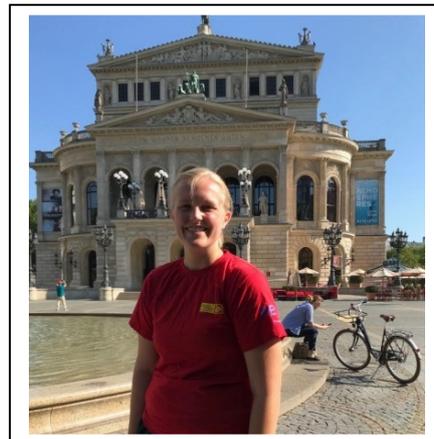
We are pleased to let Andrea Wenstadt introduce herself to the reader of USA Interns-Forum:

**Hallo! My name is Andrea and I am studying German Education and English as a Second Language at the University of Wisconsin, Stevens Point. This summer, 2018, I had the opportunity to intern with Abenteuerspielplatz Riederwald e.V. It is an organization that provides activities and festivals for children in the Frankfurt area.**

**Initially, I was nervous to live in Frankfurt. Frankfurt is much larger than any city I have ever lived in. I was also nervous because my German was a little rusty after taking a little break. Despite those fears, I was ready to take on the challenge and gain valuable experience for my future career.**

At *Abenteuerspielplatz (ASP)*, I was a part of the *Spielmobil* Team. I assisted the team in organizing the warehouse, preparing the *Spielmobil* for events and helping their two main festivals in the summer run smoothly. For the first two weeks, I went on the *Schultour*. We went to a different school each week and provided the students with various games to play, a small slack line, stilts, scooters, a “bouncy pillow,” etc. It was so neat to see the kids waiting at the schoolyard fence waiting for us to come each afternoon. Once they would see our red van approaching, they would shout “*Spielmobil! Spielmobil!*” and run straight to the schoolyard gate, waiting for us with their bright smiles. It may have been my favorite time, but it was also a challenge for me. This was my first being fully immersed in the German language and there were a multitude of times I made mistakes and stumbled over my words.

The next few weeks were focused on organizing the warehouse and preparing for one of two large festivals *Abenteuerspielplatz* put on, *Mainspiele*. The *Mainspiele* was an event that was located on a section of the Main river coast. They had many activities; such as bouncy castles, “bouncy pillows,” arts and crafts, trampolines and “rolling slides.” Since the festival was directly on the Main river, *Abenteuerspielplatz* had 3 small boats that children and their families could ride on for a mini-tour of the river and see some of Frankfurt’s sights. For the majority of the *Mainspiele*, I worked at the T-Shirt dyeing station.



*Me in front of the Alte Oper, the location for ASP's Operspiele*

My boss, **Julian Körner-Schuchardt**, thought this would be a perfect station to work at. This is the station that required a

lot of communication with the children and their families, which is an excellent opportunity to practice German! Frankfurt is a vastly diverse city, but I did not realize the sheer magnitude of that diversity until I worked at the *Mainspiele*. I met people from all over the world, speaking so many

different languages. It made my language loving heart so happy. It was interesting to connect with people who were also learning German and being able to relate on that level.



*This is the first larger event I attended with ASP. It was called Schulsportfest and it celebrated the children's last day of school before summer vacation.*

After the *Mainspiele* concluded, we had a little time to prepare for the next event *Opernspiele*. It was similar to *Mainspiele*, but it was next to Frankfurt's beautiful *Alte Oper*. Festivals were always a little chaotic, but I was excited to work at the *Opernspiele*, because working with children was always the highlight of my job. This time, I primarily worked at the arts and crafts tent. By this time my German and my confidence in my skills had improved significantly, and I helped the children pick out which craft they would like to make and help them problem solve if they needed assistance.



*This is one of my favorite photos from the summer. Back home, summers are filled with rain and thunder-storms. I missed the weather back home, especially during Frankfurt's unexpectedly hot and dry summer this year. This is a photo after one of the few rain showers we*

*had. Seeing the rainbow brought a smile to my face.*

I am grateful for this opportunity with **Abenteuerspielplatz Riederwald e.V.** thanks to **Steuben-Schurz-Gesellschaft e.V.** I appreciate all the help I received from **Juliane Adameit** for helping me find such a neat internship experience



and also to find a great host family. I cannot believe how much my German improved in the short 2.5 months in Frankfurt.

*I always enjoyed going for walks and exploring Frankfurt on my days off. Here was my view one day at a local café.*

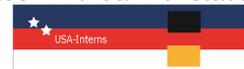
At work, I may have learned some interesting vocabulary (i.e. I feel as though I know any arts and crafts vocabulary word under the sun), but the total immersion experience was so beneficial. I went from being so nervous to say one simple sentence in German to being able to have full conversations with my coworkers and be able to explain activities to festival attendees. At home, I had much support from my host mother, Susanne von Münchhausen, and the rest of my host family. My host mom helped me navigate living in a different culture and helped me practice my German at home.

Looking back on this summer, it was challenging, but I learned so much about myself and skills for my future career. I cannot wait to share my experiences with friends and classmates back home and even encourage some to take an opportunity similar to this. It was a once in a lifetime opportunity.

I will always remember this summer and it will undoubtedly be beneficial in my studies and future career.

Redaktion: SSG-USA Interns

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Report on SSG-online: <http://www.steuben-schurz.org/usainterns/forum/forum.htm>

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