



Steuben-Schurz-Gesellschaft – USA Interns



Ein Abenteuer in Frankfurt Everett Dahl

Everett Dahl is a student at the Tennessee Technological University. He studies German and Education and was happy to get an Internship at the Abenteuerspielplatz Riederwald in Frankfurt am Main. In his report he tells us that his internship from mid-May to mid-August 2011 was full of events.

It was during my junior year at Tennessee Tech University when I heard of the Steuben-Schurz internship opportunities. Up to that point, I had always wanted to spend a significant time in Germany, as that is what I study. After learning about the internships, I figured it would be the best way to experience language, culture, and people all at the same time. I quickly decided that I would spend that following summer in Frankfurt.

Two students from my university previously had internships through Steuben-Schurz, so Dr. Weidner (our school's correspondent) was very familiar on what had to be done. She worked with me diligently to make sure my time in Frankfurt would be well spent. One of aforementioned students had worked for a business called Abenteuerspielplatz Riederwald e.V. in Frankfurt. They set up playgrounds and host large events for children during the summer

months. As I am also studying teaching, I thought this a great opportunity for me. It was then settled that I would work for them.



An adventure also for an Intern
(Photo E. Dahl)

I left for Frankfurt in May, waiting for my epic adventure to begin. Unlike the students from my university who went before me, I had a year less of German than they had had. I worked diligently to make sure my language skills were up to snuff so I could be a valued worker. My efforts paid off, and I quickly became highly aware of how Abenteuerspielplatz does business! We worked at many schools, setting up playgrounds and meeting with the same kids every day. I not only made great friends with my coworkers, but with

the children. They liked talking to an American, and I liked talking to them!

Toward the end of my stay, Abenteuerspielplatz had two grand events in the city of the Frankfurt; one on the Main River, and one at the Opernplatz. Each event lasted two weeks, and I had to do a lot of work! But it was one of the most fun times of my life. I met so many people from all over the world, not just Europe. Sometimes I would even run into an American, and it was always nice to talk about home. A few times I even saw children I had met in May at the Mainspiele and Opernspele in July and August. It was a great feeling knowing I was helping Frankfurt's community in this way.

Overall my experience with Steuben-Schurz, Abenteuerspielplatz and Frankfurt was unforgettable. On top of living in Frankfurt, I also visited various cities in Germany, and also went to Paris. I will always remember the places I visited and the friends I met; I still talk with them today! I would (and actively do) recommend this program to anyone studying the German language and interested in working in an authentic setting; it will change your life.

(SSG-USA Interns ja/scha)

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