

My Project GO Story

Hi! I have quickly learned that chai is the staple of Indian culture, and I have learned to love it. In class today, we combined language and cultural learning by not only learning how to make chai but also how to explain how to make chai or any dish in Hindi! In Hindi, I then told my teacher how to make one of my favorite dishes - brownies!



Cardon

Villanova University

Mechanical Engineering

Army

Memorable Moments

Funniest: I was having a conversation about weekend plans with my teacher, and she asked me if I was going hiking. I thought she said trekking, so I had a really confusing conversation with her, because we were talking about two different things!

Most challenging: Living with a host family. There were lots of simple adjustments that were hard to make and language barriers.

Favorite: I loved traveling around Jaipur and being able to explore another city outside of Delhi. It was beautiful, and there was an elephant sanctuary where we could play with the elephants!

Cultural Differences

A typical evening was like... A typical evening included completing homework while my host family was working. My mom would usually make us a large snack, then we would eat at around 9-9:30 with my host brothers. After, we would watch sports, and intertwined with all of this were conversations about travel, hobbies, and life in general.

New Perspective

What I learned from my homestay family... I learned so much about the culture of India that you can't get anywhere else, from food and traditional meals to how to bargain and which places to go.

Advice to students considering this program: Be open to new experiences and explore! It may seem daunting, but break things down and talk about them. It is a great and invaluable experience!

How this experience will help me in my future career: I would love to work in foreign affairs or Military Intelligence and be able to use the language and cultural experience I learned in order to communicate and understand such a vital country.