

July 8, 2010 - We flew home today. We were all sad our trip to China was almost to end. We had many memorable experiences and many friendships. I am so glad I went as a chaperon. The trip was well planned and organized. I enjoyed all that we saw, ate and did. The meals were excellent. We were treated very well – like royalty. China is a big, beautiful country with many historic cities. I was so glad I got to see some of the beautiful parts of China. It truly is an amazing country.

I think the best part of the trip was the events in Jinan. We were treated very well. It was delightful to see the American students interact with students from all over the world. They talked, laughed, played and made new friends. They learned to take a chance and talk to other students from different countries. They learned it is not so hard to make a new friend from far away. They also learned that the USA is not such a bad place and has an important spot in the world.

I will never forget my trip to China. It truly was an awesome, memorable, beautiful time. I enjoyed the students, chaperons, tours guides, cities, historic sites and of course the food. Even though it was often hot and humid, we got very tired, feet hurt and upset at small differences; I still had a fantastic time. I really enjoyed watching the students take in the sites, interact, and grow from these experiences. We all grew on this trip and will never be the same. I mean this is a positive way. Thank you to all those who helped!

- Excerpt from the trip journal by Meredith Nelson, a teacher from the Hiram Johnson High School and chaperon of the Youth Ambassador trip 2010