

Hello, my name is Jaydee Delizo and I'm going into junior year this upcoming year. During the 2024 summer, I was granted the opportunity to visit China through the Youth Ambassador Program sponsored by the Jinan Sacramento Sister City Corporation (JSSCC). I was one of the five students who received a scholarship; through the Sullivan Group, I received a 500\$ scholarship. Because of this scholarship, I went through an unforgettable experience that I will never forget.

For this trip, we had two separate locations, Beijing and Jinan the sister city to Sacramento. When we arrived in Beijing, the first thing that caught my eye was the massive infrastructure. Every building was huge and filled with modern/cultural themes, it was an incredible sight. On the second day, we visited local schools and learned more about student's daily life in China. This day was probably one of my favorite days in China. It was incredible how even though we live hundreds of miles away from each other, we still have similar habits during school. For the next few days, we visited sites filled with cultural ideas and themes. We visited places like the Great Wall, the Forbidden City, and the National Museum. It was incredible seeing all of the cultural items out for display waiting to be admired by the public. I especially like the national museum, which took us through China's heritage-rich history. On the sixth day, we packed our bags and waved goodbye to Beijing and hello to Jinan.

To get from Beijing to Jinan we took the high-speed train system that connected most of China. It was my first time on a train and it was an unforgettable experience. When we arrived in Jinan my host family was waiting for me at the train station. There I met Cui and his mom and I would soon meet his twin sisters and his dad. Before I got settled in Cui and his mom took me to a night market filled with amazing scenery. At first, it was awkward between me and Cui, since I wasn't really talking and just admiring the view. But I'm pretty sure he was able to recognize this and gave me all the time I needed to admire the view. During our visit to Jinan, we explored all kinds of attractions, but my favorite one was Da Ming Lake. The view was just breathtaking, we took a boat ride out to a private island, and it was incredible. We also toured Cui and the other host families' schools, which was shocking compared to American schools. Their high school was massive and filled with all kinds of different classes, much different compared to American campuses. Sadly, our time in China flew by, and we eventually headed back to the U.S., carrying with us so many new experiences.

Although our stay in China was only 10 days, me and the other youth ambassadors were able to fully immerse ourselves in China's culture and truly discover the beauty of China. I will take all of this knowledge and apply it to my community, especially the Chinese Cultural Club and my Mandarin class. I want to especially thank Mrs. Ren, who introduced me to this program, and JSSCC who made this trip possible.

[Pictures](#)