

## November in the US!!

No matter where or who you are, in my opinion, November is always the hardest month of the year. Not only because it gets dark so early, but I also feel like there is nothing really going on during this time. I mean, Halloween is over, Christmas is still 2 months away and the weather isn't really nice, either. And because of that, November is definitely the month where you really realize that you are the person who is in charge of your own happiness and experience. And now, as it's over, I'm proud to say that I had a pretty cool November. Okay I have to admit we were really lucky this year and had a lot of snow early in the winter which is not always the case where I am spending my exchange year. We went on so many night hikes, danced in the snowfall and just admired the winter wonderland from inside. Another benefit of being in America during this month is that they have Thanksgiving, which is celebrated on the third Thursday of November. So everyone has an event to look forward to. And that is for a good reason because it was just amazing. I got school off on Tuesday and on Wednesday we drove to my host mom's mother and spent the rest of the day and night at her house. Thursday morning started early and everyone was in the kitchen preparing the sidedish they are brining. Around noon we went to my host mom's sister's family and the big meal started! There were so many people and it was a true American experience. While some were catching up on each other's life, others were already on the couch watching the football game! I don't know if that's the case with every host family but I have to say they are all pretty good chefs!! My plate was filled with so many different things that almost all were pretty new for me: Stuffing (made from dried bread cubes cooked in broth), mushrooms, mashed potatoes, baked tofu (this is not a typical thanksgiving dish but still so delicious and a nice alternative for those who don't eat the turkey), different salads, cranberries, stir-fried vegetables and of course the turkey. And for dessert we had pumpkin pie as well as apple pie. I know it seems like all we did was to eat but believe me or not also played games in between!! It was such a fun way to get to know everyone better and I can't wait to see all of them again at Christmas! No matter which month or season I'm in, I ALWAYS try to remind myself how lucky I am. Even in the challenging situations or on hard days. Getting this opportunity is something no one ever should take for granted and I am more than grateful for the life I get to live right now. And especially the christmas time that's coming up!



