

Hi how have you been?

Even though I was looking for the snow so badly, I already miss summer. In the morning, it is under 32 Fahrenheit, which means under zero Celsius. As I expected, I caught a cold and missed school for two days. Although it is that cold, I can't believe that all the girls wear shorts which is super short like we don't usually see someone wearing ones in Japan, for every gym class.

Time passes incredibly fast; every single month, I get surprised that it is already time to write the report for my school.

1 hunting

I experienced hunting this month. It is a big thing maybe in the US, at least in Michigan. There are a lot of deer so they are used for the design of the flag of Michigan. We sometimes see them on the road, see their droppings in a yard.

There are two seasons, bow season and gun season. We can use guns for a designated period in order not to shoot them too much. Obviously using bows is harder. October 15th was the gun opening day. Since it was Wednesday, we had school as usual. The thing that surprised me was a half of the class had gone hunting on that day. Some of the students that I saw on that day, went hunting in the early morning.

I went hunting with my host mother's father and his grandson. He has a huge farm, which is nine times bigger than Tokyo-Dome. There are some little huts, called hunting blinds, he and I got in one of them and sat inside. My host mom's nephew climbed a tree and stayed on a big branch. We were staying at our own places for approximately two hours, from four to six pm, because deer starts moving around when the sun sets. It was cold, and although I wore a lot, my hands and toes were freezing. Since it is very cold, there was a heater in the blind, my host mom's nephew was wearing a jacket with a heater. All the stuff like a jacket, pants, and hat had patterns for camping by the way.

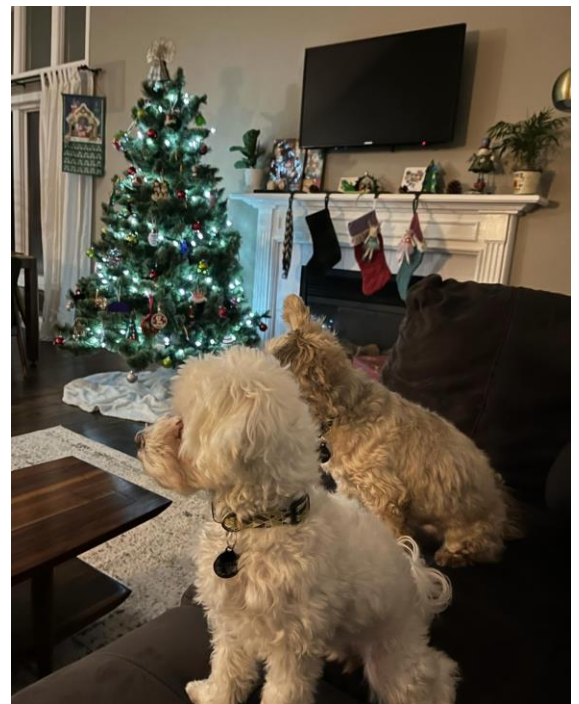
On each wall of the blind, there was a little window that we could shoot from, but still could hold the air inside so that deer wouldn't notice us. We closed one according to the wind direction. Then, we were just sitting inside, paying attention to the outside and sometimes playing on the phone. I saw nothing except for two squirrels on that day, but it was still fun. I hadn't been surrounded by that much nature for a while, so it was kind of a new thing for me. Have you ever been to a place in Tokyo where we look up and there is nothing artificial? That must be limited. It was such a nice time to clear my mind by

listening to the sounds of nature. I'm not going to lie; I could stay there half a day, because there were a lot of things going on. It was a precious experience.

2 Thanksgiving and friends-giving

As soon as Halloween ended, it was time for Thanksgiving. My friend explained Thanksgiving as the time for having fun with your family, eating a lot, and being lazy. All of the family members came over to our house. Friendsgiving is just like Thanksgiving but with your friends. I did it at a church. Turkey and mashed potatoes with gravy sauce is the common dish for both of them apparently.

Soon after Thanksgiving was over, we put up the Christmas tree.



次世代リーダー育成道場11期生 S.K