

Youth Exchange Cevi Züri 10 – YMCA Spitak, summer 2024

Every second year YMCA/YWCA Zurich gives the opportunity to two of YMCA Spitak volunteers to participate in the camp in Switzerland with Zurich 10 scouts. And this summer was unforgettable and full of new ideas and experiences for Beatris and Hakob. It makes us so happy and grateful to see their eyes shining while they are talking about their experience with Zurich 10 and in Zurich.

Here is what they share from their experience in Switzerland during 3 weeks:



Beatris : "Our trip to Switzerland was amazing! Even though I have been to many countries, this was the best and most incredible experience of my life. We had so many adventurous, funny, and interesting moments during our trip and camp. In the first three days, we saw almost all the sights in Zurich. The most exciting part began when we went to the camp. At first, we didn't know many people there, but it wasn't a problem because we made a lot of friends in such a short time. All the late-night talks

until 3 a.m., the interesting games we played, and the work we did in the kitchen—everything was awesome! We were so happy that everyone enjoyed the Armenian (and other) dishes we prepared for the evening gatherings at the camp.

As an extrovert, it was easy for me to make friends. They even taught me many Swiss-German words, which inspired me to start learning German for my future plans (including coming back!). After camp, we had three or four more days in the city. We visited Schaffhausen and saw the breathtaking Rhine Falls. On the last day, we hosted an 'Armenian evening,' and we were so glad that so many people came. Everything we made was done with love.

Now, Switzerland is one of my favorite places. The Alps, the beauty of nature, the trees, the water—everything was amazing. I am so thankful to Zurich YMCA/Spitak YMCA. A special thank you to Adi, Julia, and Miss Alvard for giving us the opportunity to experience this unique city. I also want to mention our dear friend from Armenia who is now a volunteer with Cevi—dear Shaliko jan, thank you for everything and for being our 'parent' for two weeks.

Danke schön! With love from Armenia!"



Hakob : "Switzerland was so wonderful and beautiful for a dreamer like me. I have dreamed of visiting Switzerland since childhood. We spent the first three days in Zurich with our volunteer from Armenia, Shaliko, before moving to the Alps. I was captivated by the natural beauty and thrilled to go hiking in the Alps. I found a great spot with an amazing view where I spent a lot of time relaxing. In the mornings after breakfast, I went for walks and sometimes explored during the day as well.

Even for a picky eater like me, the food was fantastic. I even went to bed early on some nights. I truly loved everything about the trip.

I am so grateful to YMCA Zurich and YMCA Spitak for this incredible experience. A special thank you to Adi, Julia, Miss Alvard, and Shaliko for making our trip so perfect."



We would like to express our heartfelt gratitude for inviting Beatris and Hakob to participate in the camp and for the wonderful sightseeing tour of Zurich. They truly loved the experience and are now brimming with ideas for the next camp. Your warm hospitality made them feel right at home, and they never felt like they were in another country. Thanks to the whole Cevi team who was taking care of them and once again for the amazing opportunity.



Hakob, Beatris and Shaliko in front of Cevi Zürich



Armenian Evening