

Beyond Boulder Incoming Journey July 29 to August 4, 2019

After the 2019 International Conference in Boulder, our club hosted a journey with ambassadors from New Zealand, Australia, California and Florida. Monday, the group arrived in Mount Pleasant via Amtrack. A drive through the Iowa countryside with a stop in Kalona brought the ambassadors to meet their hosts.

On Tuesday, the group gathered in Iowa City and rode the free campus bus to University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics for a tour that was focused on hospital's extensive art collection. The visitors received a brief overview of the hospital, were shown a video of "The Wave" to highlight the connections between the hospital and Hawkeye sports, and were guided by the director of the hospital's Project Art to some of the most notable pieces at Stead Family Children's Hospital. At the farewell potluck, the New Zealand group's leader mentioned this visit as one of the week's high points.

Lunch downtown was a family-style meal of salad and pizza at Basta and was followed by a tour of Old Capitol in the heart of the UI campus and a visit to Beadology, a local jewelry store/makerspace where people can learn to make their own glass beads and jewelry. The store owner demonstrated how to create both simple and multi-layered beads from raw-material glass using a specialized torch. The day's activities helped the visitors see the important role of healthcare, Hawkeye sports and the arts (especially literary and visual arts) in the life of Iowa City.

Wednesday was spent in Cedar Rapids at a tour of Grant Wood's Studio, the Cedar Rapids Library. Ambassadors and their hosts enjoyed small home hosted gatherings for dinner.

Thursday was again in Cedar Rapids beginning with a tour of the Paramount Theatre. This was followed by a walk to view the Grant Wood Stained Glass Window at Vets Memorial Building on the bridge and then lunch at the top of the Doubletree Hotel. A tour of the Czech and Slovak Museum ended the afternoon. Ambassadors met other club members at an all-club picnic at a member's home.

On **Friday**, the group headed north stopping first at St Francis Xavier Basilica in Dyersville for a self-guided tour. A visit to an agricultural equipment dealer let everyone explore large farm equipment. Then they visited the Field of Dreams and enjoyed lunch at Breitbach's at Balltown. Next stop was Dubuque to see the Mississippi River from Eagle Point Park and the Fenelon Elevator.

Saturday was a free day for hosts & ambassadors. Most enjoyed the Kernels Baseball game with fireworks after the game.

Host Coordinator: Connie Williams