



Michael | USMC | Bosnia | 2013

Each day, I usually wake up and enjoy a delicious breakfast and coffee prepared by my lovely host mother.

The work day begins at around 10:00 am. When I arrive at the Youth Center, I greet all of the center staff and colleagues. I enjoy a very comfortable and friendly relationship with all of my colleagues and fellow volunteers. We usually share a few morning snacks before the work day begins. I have a brief meeting with my fellow Intercordian and other volunteers to discuss what activities and classes we have scheduled for the day. The morning session of activities are geared towards working with children ages 6 to 10 years old in which we do a lot of English language lessons, arts and crafts and music lessons.

I will usually go for lunch to the bakery and local cafe for coffee with my fellow volunteers and co-workers. In the afternoon, a second group of children attend our activities at the Center who are slightly older than the morning group where we will often do drama and theatre (Improv games) and outdoor activities.



After work, we usually have a debriefing for the day in which we discuss a whole host of issues. We discuss which activities were successful and which were less popular for the kids, we examine the reasons why, we determine which children were helpful, and which children had some behavioural issues; how we addressed these challenges, and then we brainstorm what new workshops we could attempt and how we can improve our overall summer program in the future.



After work finishes at around 4:00 pm, I usually spend some time exploring the town, going for a run or a hike, journaling, talking with locals, and spending some quality time with my host mom, host sisters, host brother in the evening playing cards, laughing and sharing stories.