



Life Experiences È Sirmione, IOI 2012

by Nina Zoe Russ (4G)

What I love most about foreign languages is that they are like bridges, important keys that help people to connect each other's lives, exchanging emotions, feelings, experiences and many other useful things that enrich one's life. Knowing English, for example, simplifies communication because it is studied and well known by the majority of the people on Earth; English is a common thing that links people coming from different countries and it makes you more confident with other cultures, traditions, customs and outlooks on life.

Thanks to this mental disposition, I had an important experience that helped me to broaden my mental horizons and to enrich my personality: I was one of the three girls selected in my school to take part in the IOI (the International Olympiads in Informatics). The whole organization of this event required a large number of volunteers to work as guides for the 86 nations involved in the contests.



Our student Nina Zoe Russ (guide of the Austrian team), together with the Minister of Education, Mr. Francesco Profumo.

I was the guide of the Austrian team (knowing the Austrian language I was more favored than other people), made up of four athletes (Thomas, Markus, Thomas and Fabian), one visitor (Christoph followed his friends and cheered them before the contest days) and two leaders (they had trained the four guys for two years, before this important event). We became friends immediately and started spending also our free time together: playing beach volley, table tennis and using the other facilities offered by the Garda Village, the huge resort where we slept and ate (it had many rooms and mobile homes, and a restaurant providing delicious Italian food).

Even though I had to follow my group everywhere, answering a variety of questions they always had, I had a great experience, not only because I improved my English (and my Austrian slang as well) but also because I met many Italian and foreign people (I made friends with the Malaysian group leader and we're still keeping in touch, writing e-mails). I also realized how huge, difficult and delicate the organization of such a big event was.