I was strongly impacted by my experience abroad. STEP allowed me to explore my independence. Walking through foreign cities without guidance from my parents was scary. I challenged myself to try every form of public transportation. I even got lost a few times, but by the end I was an expert. It was awesome that I learned so much about myself and my navigational skills!

This summer I went on a study abroad trip to Europe and learned about the history of WWII. I went to seven cities in one month and made long-lasting friendships with some very amazing people.

My friends on the program have become my strongest motivators. Academically, they pushed me to work hard on classwork and their continued influence has encouraged me to be a stronger student. Every moment with my friends was memorable. One of my favorites was watching the Eiffel Tower sparkle together. I have a new passion for history and a desire to travel. My current personal goal is to be open to new experiences. I plan to say yes to trying different food and visiting new places. After such a life-changing adventure, I will seize every opportunity.

I learned that you can make strong friendships in a short period of time. It was surprising how close we all became after one month together. Also, I learned the importance of history. Without studying the past, we repeat our mistakes in the future. WWII impacts our lives today and it’s important that we never forget it.