

Runners Visit Hoffman Estates

Hoffman Estates hosted five runners, Jean-Christophe, Thierry, Laurent, Hassane and Chrystal, from our sister city, Angoulême, from July 16 – July 23, 2018. Our runners were here to participate in the Amita Fitness Run held on Saturday, July 21, 2018.

The week began with the final game of the World Cup with France winning the game. It was an exciting time for our friends from France and we loved watching the game with them at a sports bar.

While our guests were here, we offered them so many opportunities to experience Hoffman Estates and our hospitality as well as sights in and around Chicagoland. We started their visit with our traditional visit to the Village Hall to meet Mayor McLeod followed by a stop at the Police Department for a personal guided tour. We wrapped this day with a stop at the Moon Lake Fire Station for a visit with the firefighters and to see the vehicles and equipment. They were very impressed with our Village.

During the remainder of the week we spent a day at the Cantigny Museum learning about the close relationship between our two countries in defending freedom during WWI. A day in Chicago is a requisite part of any exchange from Angoulême. The group took the train to the city and then visited Willis Tower, rode a water taxi, walked Navy Pier, took great pictures at Millennium Park, and ate lunch at Pinstripes while playing Bocce ball. A great day was had by all!

The week's tours continued with shopping at Woodfield and Dick's Sporting Goods, lunch at Whole Foods, a day of fun at Main Event for bowling, pool, and rope course, and finally a Boomer's game in the evening after the race.

Since running was the focus of this exchange, conditioning every day during the week leading up to the race on July 22nd was incorporated into each day's schedule prior to touring. On one day the group met at Dick Pond in Hoffman Estates to run with their running club as part of their conditioning. On the day of the race the weather was not very cooperative, it was cool and raining that morning. They assured us that this was perfect weather for a race. We were glad to hear that. Our group was easily recognizable as they wore their team uniforms in red, white and blue. Each of them finished in the top three in their age category and won medals, and in addition two of our runners finished first and won medals and cash awards. It was a very successful and joyous day. We celebrated with French wine after the race as part of our tailgating! Oh, la, la!

We thank our runners, Jean-Christophe, Thierry, Laurent, Hassane and Chrystal, for a wonderful week and their enthusiasm for their sport and their stay in Hoffman Estates. Merci to our host families who welcomed our guests into their homes!