

"Eli is an interesting and talkative young man with desire to explore European destination."

Lär känna Eli

Eli är född 2007 och kommer från USA. Han kommer i augusti 2025 och stannar under ett läsår. Intressen är bl. a sällskapsspel, böcker, musik, matlagning, skriva texter och teckna/måla. Hans favoritämnen i skolan är biologi, bild och historia.

Dear Host Family,

I am a better artist with pencils than I am with words, but I will do my best to give you a good impression of who I am: a book lover, an artist, a poet, a dancer, a drummer, an animal and biology lover, a student, a sibling, an uncle, and a world traveller. I love books. I love to read. I tend to read realistic fiction and am pulled towards books with themes that make me think about life in a new way. I also like comic books and super hero lore. My two favorite books are *The Goldfinch* by Donna Tartt (I actually named my dog after the pet dog in *The Goldfinch*) and *I'm Thinking of Ending Things* by Ian Reid. I use art to express myself, whether I'm writing poems, crafting bracelets, drawing, or painting. Two years ago, I qualified for an advanced studio art class at my school and was assigned to paint a self portrait in the style of the street artist Danny O'Conner. My self portrait was one of only seven chosen from my school to compete in a regional competition, and I ended up taking second place overall at regionals.

I danced competitively for almost six years, and while I no longer take formal dance lessons, I will still dance in my room all the time. Music is a big part of my life, too. I have been taking drum lessons the past two years. My favorite bands to listen to are The Lumineers, Mother Mother, and Jonah and the Lion. I can't talk about art without also talking about movies. I like any films that have an artistic flair to them, including films made by Tim Burton and Wes Anderson and animation such as *Arcane* and *Into the Spiderverse*. I am interested in possibly pursuing a career in cinematography or stop motion animation. I attend a local STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) school that provides early college access, enabling me to take college courses as a high school student. While the coursework is challenging, the school environment itself is accepting, inclusive, accommodating, and friendly. My favorite classes are biology and history. I have also considered getting a degree in wildlife rehabilitation, animal science, the forensic sciences, or criminology. Additionally, I care about protecting the environment, and Sweden has always stood out to me as an environmental science and sustainability leader. A day in my life is pretty chill. I go to school, hang with friends, rest, work on homework, read--all the typical stuff for my age. But my life hasn't always been typical. For my first five years, I lived overseas. I spent three years in China and two years in Samoa. Because of this, I developed a passion for travel and for learning about other cultures from a very young age. While I don't remember China, when we moved back to the US, I enrolled in a Chinese immersion school and studied Mandarin into my 9th grade year.

Almost four years ago, my middle brother died in an automobile accident from distracted driving. A short time later, both my parents divorced. About a year before my brother died, I came out to my family, telling them I am transgender. Because my hometown is very conservative, and more and more laws recently have been passed against gender diversity, it has been difficult to live true to myself here. Although my brother's death, my parent's divorce, and my gender identity have all been big challenges in my life, these challenges have made me strong. They've taught me how to advocate for myself and others, and they've given me courage and perseverance. Because of this, I believe that I could adapt to, flourish in, and contribute to any home environment. I am kind and accepting and value diversity. In a big family, I could help care for the younger kids in the same way I support my nieces, nephew and step siblings. In a smaller family, I could play with pets and read. No matter what home I end up in, I hope to learn more about Sweden's culture, from the day-to-day lifestyle to holidays, foods, art, and entertainment. I already admire ABBA, Greta Thurnberg, and Omar Rudberg; I look forward to learning about more Swedish icons. For many years I have wanted to apply to University in Sweden. I used my own money to purchase software to help me study the Swedish language and have been studying on my own ever since. I am excited to finally be this close to experiencing life there in person, and I can't wait to meet you and get to know you!

Sincerely, Eli

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