

"Leevke is very polite and always interacts with everyone in a respectful and cooperative way."

## Lär känna Leevke

Leevke är född 2008 och kommer från Tyskland. Hon kommer i augusti 2025 och stannar under ett läsår. Intressen är bl. a handboll, både som spelare och ledare, matlagning, bakning, teckna/måla och böcker. Hennes favoritämnen i skolan är bild, matematik, idrott och språk (just nu läser hon även holländska).

Hello, First of all, I want to thank you so much for welcoming me into your family for 10 months. I still can't quite believe it. At home, besides me, I live with my parents, my two siblings, and our two rabbits. I have my own room and I am responsible for it to be organized. Currently, my older brother is in New Zealand, so we are only four in the house. During the week, we don't always have much time to spend together because of school, work, and hobbies. That's why we make time for each other on the weekends. Whether it's a game day, a trip into nature, cooking together, or just a nice movie night - it's always great. Especially when it comes to board games it takes a big part of our weekends, as my mom is a huge fan of them. That's also why we have quite a collection to choose from. A lot of my free time during the week is taken up by sports - specifically handball. I have training three times a week, and on the two other days, I coach with two other persons children between the ages 8-10 at my local club. Since my own training is performance-oriented, I also go jogging at home from time to time or do some workouts, especially during the preparation period. Apart from handball, I love drawing, reading, baking, and cooking. Especially when drawing, I can completely lose myself in my own world and spend the whole day working on one project. When it comes to reading it's nearly the same. Even though I enjoy listening to good audiobooks while drawing. On the other hand when it comes to baking, I make almost everything. But I prefer trying out new recipes that I haven't known before - whether it's cookies, muffins, cakes, or something completely different. It's quite similar with cooking, except for a few of my favorite recipes, which I end up making much more often than others. The first time I heard about what an exchange year actually is was a few years ago from a slightly older friend who was in the process of choosing a country to spend her exchange year in. While I occasionally helped her with the search and decision, I realized that I wanted to do the same when I was old enough. Now I am. What excited me the most about this idea was the opportunity to get to know another country and that much more deeply than through a regular travel. Even though I love traveling and the short insights you get into other cultures, I would really like to experience a country on a different level. I want to know how different the culture is, what the people are like, how different the everyday life is, and what traditions there are. But I wouldn't just like to get answers to these questions – I would love to experience them myself. Talking to people, living like and with them for a while, and participating in traditions. For examples when it comes to Christmas, I would love to celebrate it with my host family the way they usually do it. I'm not only interested in how different the school systems are, but also what the leisure activities are like. If possible, I would like to participate in many activities and hopefully find friends for life during the year. Another reason why I want to do an exchange is the personal growth it brings. For example, becoming more confident when facing unfamiliar situations. After all, the exchange year consists almost entirely of such moments. I also hope to become more open-minded. I would say that I am already open, but it's a big difference to be able to do that in a foreign language that you're not yet familiar with at first. That's another reason why I am highly motivated to start the adventure of an exchange year. My English is already quite good, and I want not only to improve it further but also to learn Swedish. I would love to speak as many languages as possible, which is why I didn't choose an English-speaking country, but Sweden. However, I also chose Sweden for other reasons. One of them is handball. I know it's a very popular sport there, and I've already been to Sweden several times to play handball at the Lundaspelen tournament. I've been playing handball for 11 years, and I would love to continue playing during my exchange year. Another reason is nature and, as already mentioned, the language. I love exploring new areas and going on long hikes, both in nature and in cities or villages. The snow in winter is another big plus. Where I live, it hardly ever snows, and if it does, it doesn't stay for long. I've always loved it when everything outside is covered in snow and ice, and I would like to fulfill this dream myself. When it comes to languages, I simply enjoy learning new ones. At school, I take three other languages in addition to German and can't wait to add Swedish to that list. Once again, thank you so much for taking me in. I'm already very excited and can't wait to get to know you.

Warm regards, Leevke

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