

## HALEY, Colorado

The NSLI-Y program has been everything I ever imagined and more. I could not have asked for more of an inspiring and remarkable opportunity. Living in Russia for the summer has opened my eyes and my mind to what another culture can offer. Stepping off the plane and onto Russian soil was an unforgettable moment for me. Ever since I was little, one of my dreams was to travel all over the world. With my newly printed passport in hand, I knew that this trip of a lifetime was the first step for me in achieving my itch for traveling. I had always dreamed about what my experiences in Russia would be like, but the reality of this trip exceeded my expectations! My initial cultural shock was overwhelming at first, but I learned so much more than I could have ever asked for. I'm so grateful for the one on one training I received there, because I saw improvement in my movements because of that. My favorite and most memorable experiences I had while in Russia were when I was with my host family. I visited all the historical landmarks throughout Russia, such as: Red Square, Kremlin, and St. Basil's Cathedral.

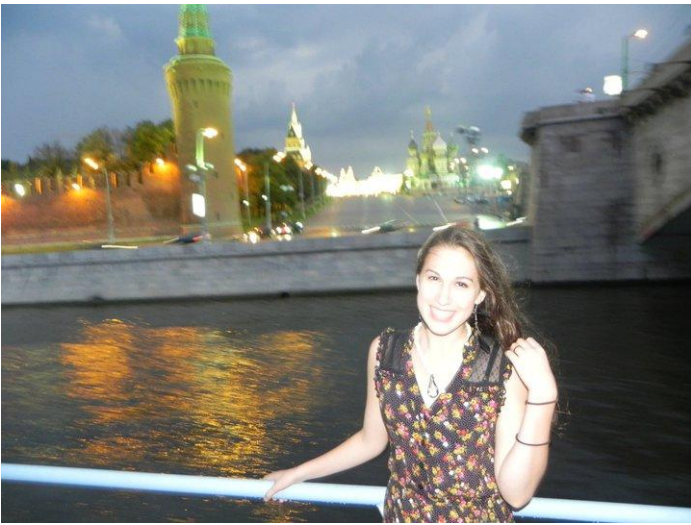
I have learned so much with this program: in language, dance, and about the world in general. I got filled with a sense of pride when I was able to communicate successfully with a native and local Russian speaker. I have seen immense growth in myself through the weeks with NSLI-Y. My passion for learning languages has only increased, and my curiosity about cultures has also grown. I have seen personal improvement in my dancing because of the talented teachers I was given here. This program inspired me to think of all the possibilities that this has opened up, like traveling to more foreign countries, pursuing a career in dance, and continuing to expand my language skills. I have also grown to realize that I love Russia and everything that is involved with it. Six weeks in Moscow is not enough for me. My love for this culture and its people has proved to have had a prominent impact on my life. I am hoping to come back to Russia and visit this amazing country again. With that said, being immersed in the Russian culture has impacted my life in a way that I will forever remember and look back on with nothing but fond memories and a smile on my face.



Russian Language Class!



Dinner before art class!



Sightseeing on the boat!



Dance pictures in the park!