

# REMEMBER THE PAST, SHAPE THE FUTURE

## IYF 2025 RECAP BY ANI

This summer I had an amazing opportunity to be part of the next AFYN forum in the US! People from all over the world came to the Anne Frank Center to share their thoughts and joy of education.

The whole forum was a bit challenging for me. Meeting new people, another continent, extreme weather... even though a lot of things were new, I enjoyed the time in America and felt empowered.

Our program was called - Remember The Past, Shape The Future.

- The first day was our arrival day. We had dinner at the Anne Frank Center in Columbia.
- The second day was about Antisemitism and Jewish identity. After we were welcomed to the University of South Carolina, we visited USC campus and Anne Frank Center. Then we visited the synagogue, where we could ask the rabbi various questions. We stayed in the synagogue for dinner with families of the Holocaust survivors. One of the most moving parts of the program for me.
- The third day was about democracy. We had three inspiring workshops connected to democracy, such as populism, democracy and dictatorship. After lunch we visited the Statehouse with a guided tour and panel discussion.
- The fourth day was about democracy and African American history. We traveled from Columbia to Charleston. There were workshops about our rights understanding, the ethics of civil disobedience and about politics.
- The fifth day we were continuing with democracy and African American history. We visited McLeod Plantation and after that the International African American Museum.
- The sixth day was about active citizenship. Memory walk was the first activity of the day. Then we were talking about what active citizenship is and after lunch visited Judge Gergel at the Federal Courthouse.
- The seventh day was about shaping the future so in the morning in groups we did creative projects about topics that we had discussed that week. After that we did an evaluation and in the afternoon we had a farewell dinner.
- The eighth day we traveled back home.

The whole week was really inspiring for me. I learnt how to convey important topics to your peers and how to talk about today's problems, how to be more active...

I met a lot of new people, made connections all over the world. Learn what problems they are facing. These events make huge sense to me and I am so glad that I am the part of AFYN family!