

Name: Felipe de Campos Vieira

Camp: Reinickendorf

Hello! My name is Felipe Vieira, I am 23 years old, and I live in Horizontina, in the state of Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil. For two weeks, my colleagues and I had the incredible opportunity to participate in a volunteer exchange program in Berlin, organized by the Ecumenical Youth Services (EYS) at Camp Reinickendorf.

During my stay in Berlin, I was warmly welcomed by everyone at the camp. Our group was made up of participants from seven different countries, and despite cultural differences in habits and perspectives, everyone was very welcoming. I built meaningful friendships and shared unforgettable moments with people I never imagined I would meet.

Our project site was the Gedenkort Alter Anstaltsfriedhof, a historical memorial located in Wittenau. Our volunteer tasks involved maintaining and preserving the area. These activities allowed us to strengthen our teamwork, build closer bonds within the group, learn about the historical significance of the site, and give back to the local community.

Beyond the volunteer work, I had the opportunity to explore several historical landmarks in Berlin and the surrounding areas. Immersing myself in diverse cultures left a lasting impression on me. Some of my favorite moments were gathering in places like the banks of the Spree River for deeper conversations, which allowed me to connect closely with people I now consider lifelong friends.

I am certain that we all returned from this journey changed, bringing home new perspectives on life, unforgettable memories, and a strong sense of fulfillment from contributing our work and sharing Brazilian culture with new friends. I also would like to express my sincere gratitude to the GPEN Network, the German Federal Ministry, ÖJD (EYS), FAHOR, and the NRI for their financial support and guidance. Their backing made this deeply transformative personal and academic experience possible.

