Emma Patterson

Mao’s Yan’An Red Base

1. What interests you about China?

China interests me because of the societal isolation that it experienced for a majority of its history. I am very interested in looking at the relationship between this isolation and its relationship to the relatively new introduction of Communism. Furthermore, since I have lived in a capitalist society for the entirety of my life, I am intrigued by the positives of Communisms and wish to explore them further. The Red Base is the birthplace of the Chinese Communist revolution, and I think that I could learn much more about Communism through the research of this birthplace. I would also be able to discuss and learn about how exactly what happened at that time affects people modernly.

1. What interests you about Communism?

I am interested in Communism because I have only been taught the negatives of the system in school and through my community. I would like to research the background of how it came into affect in a country such as China and whether or not it was a positive decision. I would also like to research whether their economic system was ever truly Communism, even at the beginning.

1. Explain your experience doing role-play, in Model UN or any other activity (including acting, etc.).

I have participated in conferences held by Johns Hopkins, where I was named Honorable Delegate, Westminster, Duquesne, University of Pittsburgh, and my high school, Riverview.  I have also participated in musicals such as “The Wizard of Oz,” “Fiddler on the Roof,” “Annie,” “Hairspray,” and others through school and the Pittsburgh Civic Light Opera.

4. Do you have a particular interest in a certain time period, type of government, etc.? If so, why?

I am most interested in learning about types of governments that are alternative to the ones that I am most familiar with. World War II has always been of a huge interest to me. However, I have been mainly exposed to material that is biased towards capitalism and the United States, so I would like to be able to discuss World War II and Communism from a different perspective.