English 10 Ainsley

 September 9, 2017

Life Is About Experiences

I am a British Columbia Bowling Champion…. Twice

One of my favorite experiences was going to the Canadian Bowling Nationals this year in Gatineau, Quebec.

I am at the airport with my team and I am wearing my official BC bowling jacket waiting to leave. As we boarded the plane we could smell the stale recycled air, and our seats were all crammed together. As our plane started to take off, it thundered down the runway, and started to rattle like an earthquake. Our plane ride was five hours long and we spent that time eating sweet sugary candy, and playing card games. When our plane started descending to land my ears started to pop like crazy.  When we landed in Ottawa, we waited by the creaky carousel for our luggage, and then we boarded the team bus for our hotel in Gatineau, Quebec.

**­­­­­**The next morning the tournament began, and I knew my team, and I would proudly represent the province of British Columbia. After waking up, I put on my black yoga pants, and official BC jersey. Then I went to have breakfast with my team.  Once breakfast was done we all grabbed our bowling bags, and got on the bus to the lanes in Ottawa, Ontario. It was a school bus and it was very crowded with all of us, and our gear. While on the bus I heard coaches and kids talking, cars driving by and people honking their horns in traffic.

Before the actual tournament began all of the teams participated in the Nationals Opening Ceremonies, and I felt honoured because my team had chosen me to hold the BC flag. As we walked around the arena the flag swayed back and forth and I was extremely proud to be there!

When we got to the bowling alley the lanes were so shiny that you could see the reflection of the ceiling and pins. My team and I were very excited to start bowling.  The bowling alley was packed with parents cheering and supporting their teams.  I felt my smooth bowling ball in my hands and was ready to knock down all the pins (STRIKE). I could hear the crack of the bowling ball hitting the pins.

 After day one and two were over, our team would hang-out in one of the hotel rooms. We played card games, did scavenger hunts around the hotel, gossiped and ate junk food.

We bowled 22 games over the span of three days. But ultimately it came down to a tie breaker game which was for third place.  When we were waiting to bowl the tie breaker we had a team meeting. We were all tired and stressed out but you could see the determination on all of our faces.  When it finally began, my hands were sweaty and I used my rough towel to wipe down my hands and bowling ball. In the beginning of the tie breaker we were leading by quite a bit and we knew we had a good chance at winning a medal. We were so pumped and cheering so loud. Every time I went up to bowl I could hear my Dad chanting my name “Come on Ainsley you’ve got this”. When I heard my dad yelling my name it made me get nervous but at the same time it made me feel encouraged and excited.

In the end we lost by 56 points which was sad however we all were so happy that we made it this far. We congratulated the other team and they were so nice. They told us that we are stunning bowlers and that we bowled really well. Towards the end of the national tournament, they have a tradition where you exchange your extra jersey with another team. For instance, I exchanged my jersey with a girl from the Manitoba team.

When the award ceremonies were finished, we all headed back to our hotel to relax and get ready for dinner.

When we woke up the next morning it was time to head back home.  We needed to take two different planes because we had a layover in Toronto. After 7 hours of flying we finally arrived back home!