

The 27th January 2008
Pieksämäki, Finland

Dear Host Family,

My name is Linda and I am a seventeen-year-old girl from Finland. My home land is very small country (only 5 million inhabitants) but we have good standard of living here. There are lot of forests and lakes here. Finland lies in Northern Europe between Sweden and Russia. The climate is pretty cold especially in wintertime. Finland is a democracy and we have female president called Tarja Halonen. In my home town Pieksämäki there are 20 000 inhabitants. Distances aren't very long here so I usually ride by bike.

There are five people in our family. My parents Seppo and Marjo are both 44 years old. My father is a pastor and now he is working among deaf people. My mother teaches home economics in a college. I have two brothers. My elder brother is in the army at the moment so unfortunately he is not in our family picture. His name is Paavo and he just turned nineteen. My little brother Petrus is fifteen years old. Sadly we don't have any pets.

After this term I have one year left in senior high school. There are about 300 students in our school. My dream is to became a psychologist because I think human mind is interesting. My other interests are music, reading, fashion, movies and different cultures, for example. I play piano though I'm not very talented in it. I also take singing lessons and listen music very very much. It is important to me. Library is my favourite place here in Pieksämäki because of the atmosphere. I find reading relaxing and I do it a lot. I like magazines and books. My favourite book is The Secret History by Donna Tartt. In my option, people's dressing styles are interesting. I'm not that into models or high fashion but when I walk in the streets, I always pay attention to what people are wearing. I am happy that nature is close to me here so I can go to a stroll or cross-country skiing whenever I want.

The reason I wanted to take part in Lions Youth Exchange is my interest of different cultures. It was hard to me to pick the three countries where I want to go because almost every country in the world feels interesting. I just want to meet people from other countries and learn something about other cultures.

Love,

Linda

