

ORIENTATION WEEKEND AT NEW HARMONY

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During the first week of getting to USI it can be a whirlwind of new people, new places, and tons of learning. However, the team at USI strives to make it fun for everyone with plenty of activities and trips. I was lucky enough to work orientation the past two semesters. This semester we took the students to a place just east of Evansville to the historic town of New Harmony.



Spring 2018 Orientation Group to New Harmony

New Harmony is a mission of the University of Southern Indiana and they own many of the buildings there. It takes roughly 20-30 minutes to get there and once there you can do numerous different things, including take a tour. That is exactly what our group of international students did. We embarked on a two hour tour of the town where we learned about the communal living habits of the Harmonist and then the Owens that followed after them and then to the present where we learn what makes New Harmony such a popular destination. There are even rumors that one of the buildings may be haunted!



After the tour we all had lunch at the Red Geranium, an upscale restaurant in the town. We had a view over a stream and was able to enjoy plenty of food options. I personally would recommend their salmon. Afterwards there was some free time in which I took many of the students to the café to get coffee. Sara's is a popular destination in New Harmony and many of the students enjoyed the variety of options and learning about the differences in their hot chocolate options. Hint: One is spicier than the other! The students all loved learning about the history and the German heritage of the small town, many were surprised that it even existed.

The trip to New Harmony is always a highlight of the orientation week. It gives students a day to get away from that whirlwind experience of when they first arrive and also gives them the chance to get to know one another and form a group before classes even begin. It is not just international students who go on these trips either, American students who attend the University of Southern Indiana are also in attendance to help answer any questions you might have as well as to offer more friendship for you.

New Harmony is also an important aspect of University of Southern Indiana due in part to the University having a major stake hold in communal living research. Scholars from all over the country, and the world, come to USI to learn about communal societies. There is even a scholar's retreat where researches can live in in New Harmony if they ask the Universities permission first. Overall, New Harmony is a wonderful destination for students to go to, especially in the warmer months when you can rent a golf cart and explore town on your own time and even go into the giant maze! USI students get many discounts throughout New Harmony as well. I would highly recommend anyone to visit New Harmony, and would strongly encourage you go to more than once. Everyone always has a great time.