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Hi Penny,

Liz Dubuc here. My daughter Lily went on the NSA EuroTour last summer. She LOVED it!

I, too, was a bit nervous, sending my 14 year old off to Europe solo. Lily knew one of the girls also going, not a good friend, but they trained together. Anyhow, once I left her at Sacramento airport, I entrusted her with Fred, and all went well. Not only did she grow as a player, but as an individual as well. She came back more independent, more confident, and overall, a bit wiser to some of the ways of the world. She has a new found appreciation for the mighty dollar, her individual responsibilities, and talks excessively about going back again this summer.

Financially, we could only afford to send Lily. Lily was completely fine with going without either one of her parents, and, truth be told, I think she would prefer to go again this year without us. I take that as I sign that we as parents are doing our job, raising her to be self sufficient in the near future. And, as much as I would love to watch her play, and travel in Europe, again, financially, I do not see my husband or I going. However, my cousins, who are both single and somewhat well off financially, went for a week. They both loved the tour as much as Lily. They are hoping to go again this year, if we send Lily. They are both well traveled, and enjoy the finer things in life, and are keeping their fingers crossed that Lily will go again so that they can tag along. Lily enjoys my cousins, she says they are "cool," and they were very generous in allowing Lily and teammates to shower and lounge and the 5 star hotel in which they were staying.

Anyhow, we are doing everything possible to send Lily again this summer. It is the experience of a lifetime, and hopefully for Lily, twice in a lifetime. Also, I understand the part about these teens not wanting their parents to go. We were once young, too, right?! HA!

Please feel free to contact me should you have any questions. Best of luck with Dylan and him joining the NSA Tour. Perhaps he and Lily will become life long friends, she should be able to attend again this year.

Liz Dubuc