

It was all snow, surprises and thrilling international competition for 50 teens from the Boys & Girls Clubs of the Peninsula who just spent an amazing nine days at the 2010 Winter Olympics.



This wonderful trip was made possible by the Foundation for Global Sports Development, an organization that promotes sportsmanship, fair play, education and ethics among youth. Lucky participants in this adventure to Vancouver included teens from our clubhouses in East Palo Alto, Menlo Park and Redwood City and ten students from Eastside College Preparatory School in East Palo Alto. "I feel so fortunate that I was chosen for this once in a lifetime trip," said Clarisa, a teen from our Redwood City clubhouse.

Club members were chosen for inclusion in this spectacular trip based on their participation in the Club's College Bound program and their academic standing. The Club coordinated closely with local school principals to ensure that the students would not fall behind due to their time away from school.

The Foundation for Global Sports Development planned a truly unforgettable experience for the group. The teens saw various competitions, including moguls, cross-country skiing, hockey, and curling at the Olympic Games and met several Olympians. They also enjoyed side trips to several local museums and the sights of Vancouver.

While attending the women's hockey match between the USA and China, the students sat only a few rows away from Vice President Joseph Biden. "I couldn't believe that we saw such an important American leader while traveling outside the United States," Clarisa said. "We were so lucky to see so many things on our trip that wouldn't normally be possible at home."

The lucky attendees also met with Chrissy Perham, winner of 3 Olympic swimming medals at the 2002 Summer Olympics in Barcelona. Chrissy shared an inspirational message with the teens about the joy she received from working hard toward her goal and being the best that she can be. "It was really cool that even though she won medals at the Olympics, she took the time to come and talk to us and teach us about working hard towards our dreams," said Adrian, a teen from East Palo Alto. "She passed around her medals and let us take pictures with them!"



Edgar, a teen from Menlo Park, enjoyed meeting the only Mexican athlete at the Olympics. "During the trip, I learned that the Olympics is more about bringing people from many countries together to celebrate each other than it is about competition. I hope to use this lesson by becoming friends with people who are different than me when I attend college next year," he said.