

# The Charlotte Observer

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## NO ORDINARY EUROPEAN VACATION

### Tracing Wiesel's footsteps

Area students will see the places where Holocaust unfolded

TIM FUNK

A dozen high school students from Mecklenburg County left for Europe Wednesday to trace the footsteps of Elie Wiesel, the Holocaust survivor and Nobel Peace Prize laureate who visited Charlotte in March.

These "footsteps ambassadors," who were chosen by the Charlotte-based Echo Foundation, will report during their trip in a blog -- "In the Footsteps" -- at <http://cltstudents.blogspot.com>.

Among the stops on their itinerary: Sighet, Romania, Wiesel's birthplace; Auschwitz and Birkenau, the Nazi concentration camps in Poland where Wiesel and his family were sent; and Versailles, France, where he was given refuge as an orphan.

A film crew will accompany the kids, who will return July 29.

Adara Blake, 16, said she expects the trip to be "very powerful" and that she'll bring back "lots of stories, lots of pictures and good memories."

The participants and their schools are: Catherine Auerbach and Casey Horgan, Myers Park High; Adara Blake, Evelyn Denham, Scott Fisher and Margaret Love, North Mecklenburg; Natasha Frosina and Kristine Sowers, Providence Day; Preston Gray and Blake Templeton, Butler; Gabriela Reed, East Mecklenburg; Harold Robins, Providence High.

