



2014 WASHINGTON YOUTH TOUR

By Bria Ramon


#ytdc14

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MY INITIATIVE

- I had heard about the tour through a friend who'd seen a flyer put up by GRICUA. He encouraged me to apply and I took advantage of the opportunity and applied. I thought of how it would be to travel to Washington D.C. and this was my chance to go. Through movies and pictures it encouraged me to write my essays with more fervor and determination.



MY ESSAY

- Through the prompts I was able to show forth my interest in electricity and how it affects our world and Community. I talked about how interesting electricity can be with its multiple surges of electricity pumping through millions upon millions of wires nonstop every day.



WHAT IS THE WASHINGTON YOUTH TOUR?

- The Washington Youth Tour is an opportunity for the young people in rural areas of the United States to dig deeper within the origins of our country. More than 1,500 students from states across the country participate in this trip.
- The students will meet with State and District Representatives and have an opportunity to voice their personal views and community's concerns. The student's home state will plan and coordinate what their youth group will do during the week they are visiting our nation's capitol.
- This year the Washington Youth Tour celebrated a grand total of 50 years of brightening the nation's youth every year and encouraging them to dream high.
- Seven days of absolute fun is in store for those who will embark on this trip in the future.



DAY ONE & TWO ADVENTURES

- Day One was spent traveling to Washington, D.C.
- To start off the second day, we departed Baltimore for D.C., but before we left the city, we visited Fort McHenry, the birthplace of the national anthem. It told the story of a man who looked out upon the Potomac River as he watched the American and British forces violently exchange fire throughout the night. We also visited the National Cathedral and stood in front of the White House! It was a very amazing day because I had never seen myself – literally, standing in awe in front of the house of the President.



DAY THREE ADVENTURES

- **Arlington National Cemetery** is a hot spot for many of us for various reasons. As soon as we arrived, we started the long walk to the grave of Ira H. Hayes. The feelings there were very strong and powerful.
- **Madame Tussauds Wax Museum** was so much fun. There were so many faces to see. We went on a journey back in time to meet some of the greatest faces on Earth.



DAY THREE ADVENTURES CONT.



DAY FOUR ADVENTURES

- The day was started at Mount Vernon, in other words, George Washington's estate. He is also buried there in his family tomb.
- The United States Marine Corps museum was very interesting and educational. They had war simulators everywhere, showcasing weather conditions and physical conditions for the soldiers.



DAY FOUR ADVENTURES CONT.



DAY FIVE ADVENTURES

- **Youth Day** was the highlight of this day because all the states came together for an amazing presentation by so many speakers and a lot of state pride was voiced loudly. The speakers in particular had made huge impacts on everyone that morning.
- **The Iwo Jima Memorial** was like none other. It is the largest copper sculpture in the United States. This is also the sight where the USMC parade was held the next evening.
- **Capitol Tour!** We had an audio tour inside the Capitol building. It was a sight to see since I've always wondered what it looked like inside the huge dome.



DAY FIVE ADVENTURES CONT.

- **The Lincoln Memorial...** this was my favorite sight to see on the whole trip. I'd always seen this memorial in so many movies. It had given me the ambition to see this in person when I watched the movie, "Mr. Smith Goes to Washington". Once he'd arrived in D.C., he was so excited about everything there and I was too.



DAY SIX ADVENTURES

- **National 9/11 Pentagon Memorial** is a memorial for those who died inside the Pentagon and those who had perished in the plane. In order to determine who was on the plane and who was on land, the monuments will be facing a certain direction.
- **The Holocaust Museum** was also a great destination for us as a group. The aura the place gives off is so emotionally strong and sad. It was also one of my favorite museums to see because I wanted to know the story of my chosen person.
- **The Sunset Military Parade** was a really fun showcase. The band was really amazing but one person had dropped a rifle in the rifle toss!



DAY SEVEN ADVENTURES

- We had our congressional visits this morning and we had to dress in professional attire. We met Ann Kirkpatrick briefly, but had a lengthy visit with her assistant Ken Montoya.
- On our last Smithsonian visit, we all went to the National Museum of the American Indian. They had some pretty awesome stuff that many of us could relate to and some funny things in the gift shop. But overall, it was a great museum.



DAY EIGHT ADVENTURES – ON THE WAY HOME

- On the flight home, it was sort of relaxing and I was able to reminisce about all the things I'd witnessed during my time in D.C. I never would have thought I'd ever make it to Washington this early in my life. It has taught me that I need to take advantage of many things, because I never know what will become of it. I believe that's what we should all do, since we never know what's in store for us. I know that this will not be my first and last time I am able to visit our nation's capital. I've learned a lot about the long journey it took for our leaders to give us, the rural areas, electricity. I got to know many amazing people, most I wouldn't meet in the city, they're all one of a kind. We all share the same concerns and understand each other pretty well, and I've made great friends with many of them. Yes, it was very sad for us to leave each other after growing so close like a family, but I know that many opportunities lie ahead and it's up to us to choose to embark on those journeys.





THANK YOU

