

2016

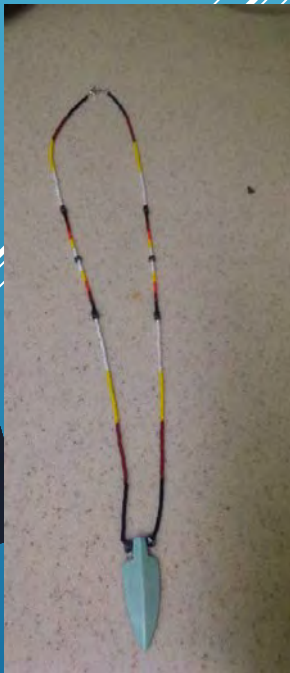


2016

WASHINGTON YOUTH TOUR

ABOUT ME:

- ▶ My name is Ellayna Polingyowma, Currently a senior at Coolidge High School.
- ▶ I am ½Pima, ¼ Hopi and ¼ T.O. (Tohono O'odham)
- ▶ I currently reside in Gila River District 4.
- ▶ My hobbies are being artistic such as drawing, painting, and bead working with my So-oh (Grandma)
- ▶ I like volunteering at GRICUA when it comes to events such as Mul-Chu-Tha and River of Lights parades. I'll walk with them if they need help and I'll help make the decorations.



HOW DID YOU HEAR ABOUT WYT 2016:

I heard about WYT 2016 through my family and through the JOM Counselors at my school. I'm glad I applied for the WYT. I learned new things and got to see new things that most native teens don't have the opportunity to experience. It opened my eyes to what really happened in the past. Once I realized I was actually in Washington D.C I said "wow, I'm actually seeing what I learned in my history classes"

WHAT WAS REQUIRED TO ENTER THE CONTEST:

- ▶ Our school had an essay contest.
- ▶ The essay required details about myself, what I knew about GRICUA and how electricity is made and why we would be a good representative for Gila River.



INTERVIEW & THE WAITING:

- ▶ 2-3 weeks later we got our interviews.
- ▶ I was nervous and scared.
- ▶ About 3-4 days later we were notified if we were selected.



ALL ABOUT THE TRIP:

- ▶ Experience: My experience was awesome I loved it, I love the fact that I got to see history that we learned about.
- ▶ Weather: The weather was humid most days.
- ▶ Walking: The walking wasn't all too bad because you're so fascinated with everything you're seeing that you don't realize how much walking you've done.

JUNE 9TH: DAY 1 OF OUR JOURNEY:

We had a blessing at the Shelden Building to wish us luck on our journey and to be safe. Shortly after, we left for the hotel.



At the hotel we had a student orientation.



JUNE 10TH: DAY 2 OF OUR JOURNEY:

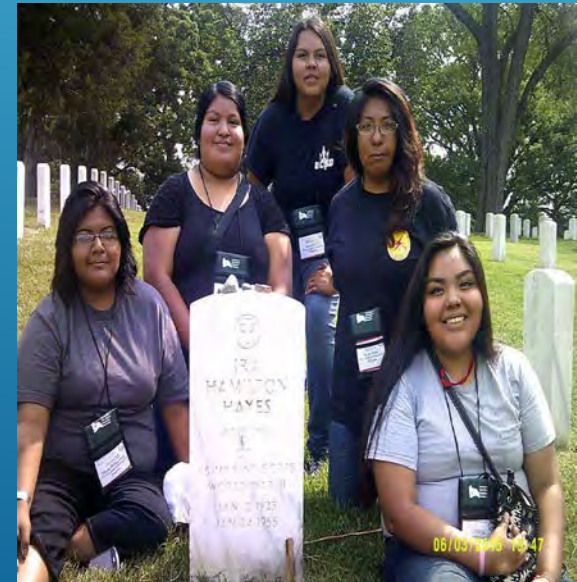
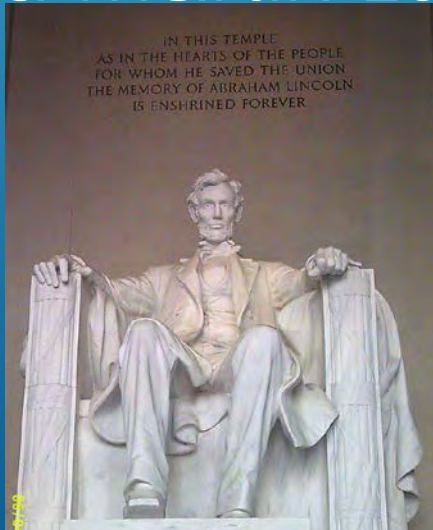
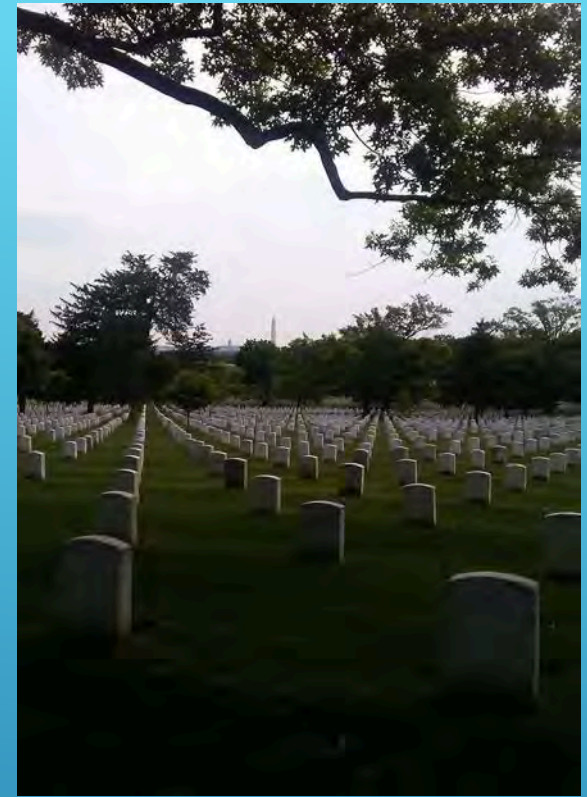


After our flight we headed to the Hyatt Crystal City in VA. We had dinner at Clark Street Grill. After we went back to the hotel to play a game called Congressional Insight. An elected "Congress" member hears two sides of a debate and makes a decision that affects everyone.



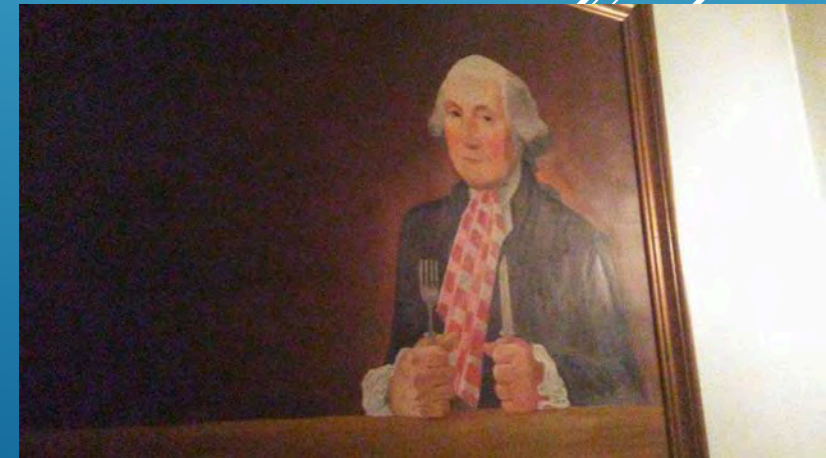
JUNE 11TH: DAY 3 OF OUR JOURNEY:

- We toured Arlington National Cemetery. It took us an hour to find Ira H. Hayes' grave.
- We went to Abraham Lincoln's Memorial and Martin Luther King's Memorial.



JUNE 12TH: DAY 4 ON OUR JOURNEY:

- We drove to Mount Vernon and toured George Washington's mansion. We saw some of his original furniture and beds.
- We had lunch at the Gadsby's Tavern where the man himself ate. The food was good especially the dessert.
- Later that night we went to Toby's Dinner Theater where we had dinner and watched Peter Pan.





JUNE 13TH: DAY 5 ON OUR JOURNEY:



- We attended the Youth Day Conference. We listened to motivational speakers. It was good. One taught me that no matter how hard life gets for you , you always got to move on and keep trying.
- After the conference we headed to the Capitol Building and had a picnic lunch. We got to tour the Capitol Building. It was amazing! I saw paintings, statues, everything. After our tour was done we went to a park.
- We went on a night boat cruise on the Potomac River..



On Day 5 we also got to visit the White House.



JUNE 14TH: DAY 6 OF OUR JOURNEY:

- We went to the Holocaust Museum. The Holocaust was sad and emotional. Was interesting but sickening at the same time. It's something you'd have to experience.
- We then went to the National Cathedral which was interesting and a bit spooky to me.
- We watched the Sunset Military Parade.



JUNE 15TH: DAY 7 OF OUR JOURNEY:

- We broke up into our groups for our Congressional visit. We went to Ann Kirkpatrick but she was not in her office she was in a meeting.
- After the visit we headed to the Air and Space Museum.
- Our last tour stop was a Fort McHenry in Baltimore. We ate dinner at the Olive Grove restaurant which was good.



**Thank you and
have a great
day 😊 ✌️ 📺 🙌**