

WASHINGTON YOUTH TOUR 2014



By: Kandie Toni Anton

Sponsors



Gila River Indian
Community Utility Authority



National Rural Electric
Cooperative Association



Grand Canyon State
Electric Cooperative

MY INITIATIVE

- Last summer, I was a high school intern at GRICUA. I had learned many new things about how our Community is powered by electricity, by meeting and working with grateful and friendly employees who showed me what each department in GRICUA does.
- After spending 2 wonderful weeks as an intern, my time was up. I wasn't ready to leave my amazing new friends, but then I was made aware of the Washington Youth Tour. I had made a promise to apply and do my best to come back to GRICUA, by applying for the Washington Youth Tour.

ESSAY

- To apply for the WYT, you have to have good grades, maintain your attendance and have a GPA of 3.0 or above. You also have to answer 3 essay questions (below):
 - “How does electricity impact your life and why is it important to have electricity in your home, business, and school?”
 - “Please provide a brief explanation of why you would like to be chosen as our representative on the 2014 Youth Tour.”
 - “What are some ways to conserve energy? Why is it important to the environment? How would you implement it to the public?”

WHAT IS WYT?

The Washington Youth Tour brings more than 1,500 highly talented, ambitious young people from across the country to spend an incredible week in our nation's capital, to further develop our leadership skills and ambitions.



GRAND CANYON STATE HEADQUARTERS

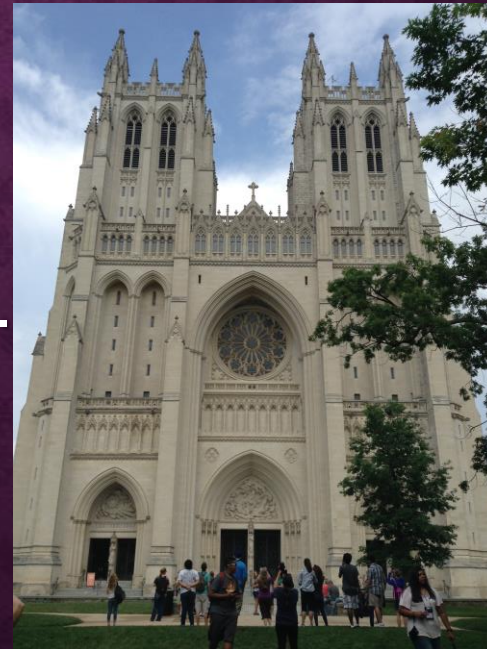


After we had our farewell blessing/breakfast at GRICUA, we went to the headquarters of the Grand Canyon State Electric Cooperative. There we met other students representing their respective Electric Co-ops and had lunch. Arizona had a group of 40 students. Jim Donahue went over the rules of the trip. Then we got on the bus and headed to the airport.



DAY 1 OF WYT 2014

- The first place we went to was Fort McHenry which is the birthplace of the National Anthem. We got to walk around the fort and went into a bomb shelter and guard room.
- The next place we visited was the National Cathedral. It was gigantic!
- Our Congressional Insight was held with South Dakota. We were able to see situations congressmen and women experience. Each table was given a different Representative's background. Our job was to make decisions we would think our Representatives would make. After we finished with making our choices for our Representatives the other students filled out a survey to see if they agreed with our decision. At the end of the whole session, we would find out if we were elected again.



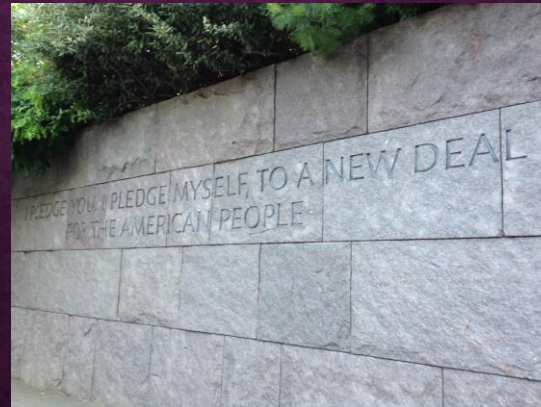
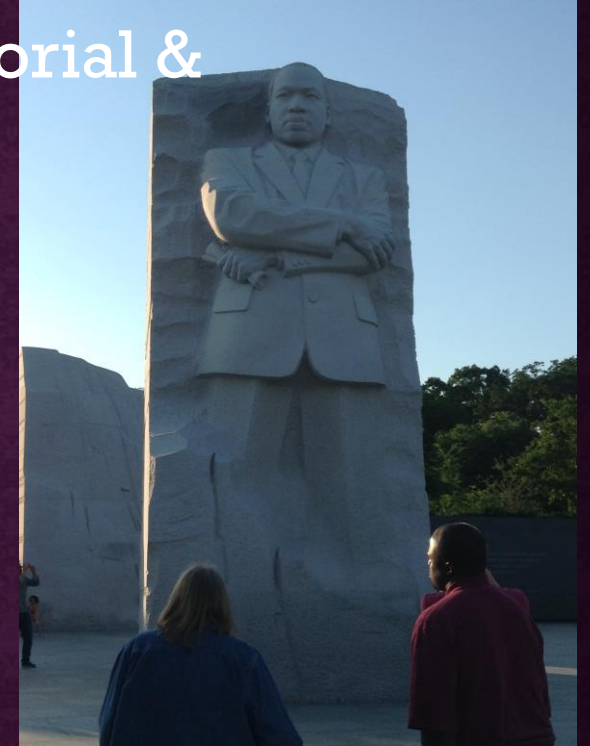
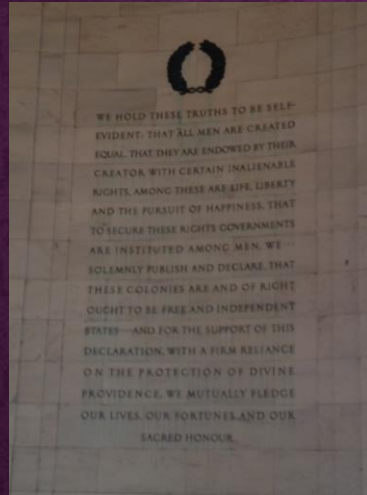
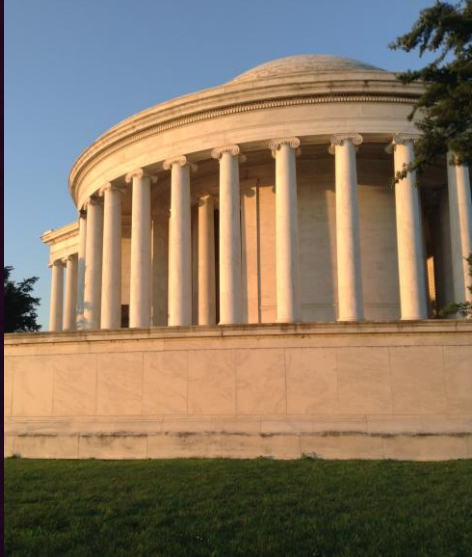
DAY 2 OF WYT 2014



- The second day, we visited the Arlington Cemetery. Jaina led us to, GRICUA and TOUA students to Ira H. Hayes' grave. We sang 3 songs in his honor.
- We then went to the Women's Cemetery and Museum. We saw Lori Ann Piestewa's uniform.
- After lunch at the Union Station Food Court, our next destination was Madame Tussauds Wax Museum. It is famous for life-like wax figures of leaders and celebrities.
- When we finished going through the Wax Museum, we had our own choice of which museum we wanted to see. We chose to go to the Museum of Natural History. It was my second time in the museum, but I had forgotten how mesmerizing the exhibits are.

DAY 2 OF WYT 2014 CONTINUED...

Franklin D. Roosevelt Memorial, Jefferson Memorial & Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial



DAY 3 OF WYT 2014

Mt. Vernon! We had the privilege of being able to go inside the house our first President had lived in. We were not allowed to take pictures inside the house. As we finished the house tour, we ventured around his land.



DAY 3 OF WYT 2014 CONTINUED...



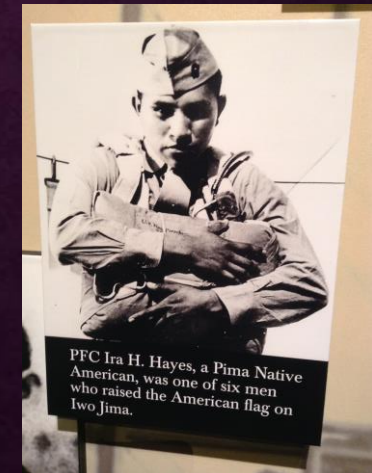
- We ate lunch at Gatby's Tavern. The food was new to me. At first, I hesitated to try the salad, but it turned out to be the best salad I ever ate! I liked how the waiters were dressed up in old fashion attire.



- The USMC (United States Marine Corp.) Museum had exhibits that made you feel as if you were there with the men who fought for our country. My favorite parts of the museum were the flags that Ira H. Hayes had helped lift on Iwo Jima. The other was the war simulator rooms, which reenacted battles with loud sound effects for the bombs.



- We had dinner at Toby's Dinner Theatre. We saw a play called Shrek. Our waiters put on an amazing show and the food they prepared for the buffet was delicious. We dressed up in our Sunday best for this fun event. We all had a wonderful time.



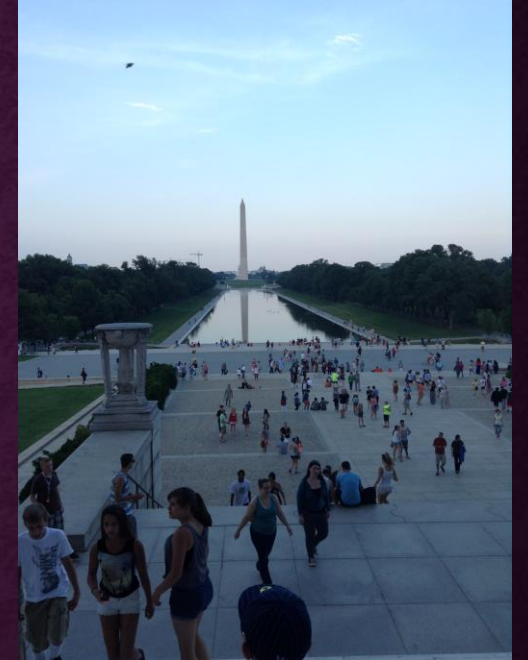
DAY 4 OF WYT 2014

- Youth Day was the day we had been able to meet the rest of the WYT Students from across the country. During this session, we had wonderful speakers and we met our new State Youth Leadership Council (YLC) 2015 Representatives.
- We stopped for a bit at the Iwo Jima Memorial. I was overwhelmed by how big the monument was!
- Our next stop was the U.S. Capitol Building. After climbing up the hill to the Capitol, my legs were weak! We had the privilege of taking a tour inside the Capitol. We watched a 10 minute video on the history of the Capitol before we started the tour. They had many statues and beautiful paintings on the walls and the ceiling.



DAY 4 OF WYT 2014 CONTINUED...

WWII Memorial, Washington Monument, Vietnam Memorial, Korean Memorial & Lincoln Memorial



DAY 5 OF WYT 2014

- When we finished lunch and another Smithsonian visit we met at the Holocaust Memorial Museum. We were not allowed to take pictures inside the museum. My experience I had while going through the museum, really left me speechless. It left me with a huge heartache and unbelievable to understand what one race had gone through in less than 10 years. Native Americans can relate to the same loss that the Jewish people experienced. The Military Parade was very entertaining and cool! They played some songs from the musical "Hair Spray".



DAY 6 OF WYT 2014

- We went to the Capitol Building for the Congressional visit. We met with Ann Kirkpatrick, briefly, and we continued our discussion with her Assistant.
- At the National Museum of American Indian we had seen a lot of different cultures and traditional clothing from all over the country.
- After finishing up our busy day, we had our final dinner together at Olive Grove. Jim Donahue provided closing remarks. We ate, laughed and got ready for our departure home.



THANK YOU!



My personal thanks goes to GRICUA for providing me with this once in a life time opportunity. May the Creator bless the program and the people who make the trip possible. I had an amazing experience in Washington, D.C.