

Julia Santiago

Week 6: June 30-July 7

If I were asked to describe this whole week in one sentence it would be, “A week of new adventures, great sights, and amazing company.”

Monday was productive; I had two meetings with my supervisor, ordered my dad’s medicine, and filed my 2017 taxes. I decided to switch it up a bit and decided to walk from H&R Block to my dorm. Walking back to my dorm I discovered new coffee shops and places I could stop to read.

Tuesday after work, I returned to H&R Block to finish filing. After paying \$100+ to have them done, I decided I am going to learn how to file and do them myself. Who knew filing taxes was expensive? Wednesday, the other WHIEEH interns and I had training. We discovered what our leadership style is through the Meyer-Briggs test. It turns out I am an INFJ or “The Advisor,” which means I am highly intuitive, and value driven. This session was helpful, I had the chance to learn more about the other interns which I hadn’t learned about.

Our supervisor gave us a head start to our four-day weekend by letting us out a bit early. Today was the day my partner would be flying in to see me. After work, I quickly got on the metro to meet him. We ate dinner, then we went to get him a metro card. It was his first time in D.C. and I was ready to show him around.

Thursday morning, my partner and I had a quick breakfast at Whole Foods. The parade in D.C. was at 11, but I didn’t want to be around so many people. Instead we waited until the evening to go see fireworks. The fireworks could be seen from the Potomac River, and that is where we wanted to go. We were a bit late, but we still saw some of the spectacular fireworks. We ended the night by riding bikes. (Side note: Never riding a Capital Bikeshare bike again because I’m short and my feet couldn’t touch the ground when I stopped. Scary.)

On Friday, my boyfriend was anxious to see the Washington Monument and Lincoln Memorial. We spent most of the afternoon at the National Mall. After our long day, we settled in to eat dinner. Since I have been in D.C. for 6 weeks now, I am getting accustomed to the weather and my body has acclimated to the humidity.

Saturday, we left at 4 in the morning to catch the bus to go to New York! The bus ride seemed short, and we were soon in the Big Apple! I had made a list previously of the places we should visit. We walked for 20 minutes when we finally came to Times Square. It is definitely a scene, big bright screens, flagship stores, and people hustling to get from one point to another. I had to treat myself, so I went inside the Covergirl store and bought myself a nice makeup bag.

From there we wanted to see the Empire State Building. I’ve seen the building in pictures but never thought how tall it would look in real life. Sadly, we didn’t want to purchase 45-dollar tickets to go inside, but it was nice seeing it.

Next, we wanted to see the World Trade Center, and we ended up walking for an hour and a half to get there! Yes, an hour and a half, but it was worth it. We also saw the 9/11 Memorial. The names of the people who had died were engraved all around the Memorial Pools.

Before our stay ended, we had to go see the Statue of Liberty. Unfortunately, we could not go on a ferry, but we did walk around Barter Park. We could see the Statue of Liberty and Ellis Island from afar. One thing is for sure, I will be back. New York is full of life and can't wait for an opportunity to be back.

Sunday morning, my boyfriend and I made some delicious chicken quesadillas, with eggs and bacon. (Side note: I miss my mom's posole and homemade meals.) My boyfriend wanted to go to different museums, so I took him to the Air and Space Museum and the National Museum of Natural History.

Before, we went back to the dorm we ate overpriced ice cream cones. My Sunday ended by finishing laundry, working on scholarships, and cleaning my dorm.



