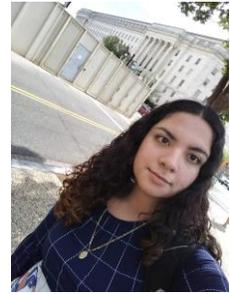


Week 6: Recess Week!

I am delighted to say that I was able to sleep for an extra hour each morning Monday through Wednesday, as it was recess. However, I had wrongly believed that I would have a pacific time at the office during this week since it tends to be slow, and the representatives do not vote. The workdays seemed more hectic and busy. Along with the other interns, we felt exhausted by the end of the day. We worked from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., unlike the regular 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. work hours. To fit in the work environment, I bought decaffeinated coffee from Dunkin Doughnuts. It has been years since I consumed coffee,



so it is to no surprise that I thought the taste was overwhelming and unpleasant. The smell, however, is very pleasant and aromatic in my opinion.



The Capitol 4th Concert rehearsal took place on Wednesday, July 3rd and the official event was on July 4th. I admit I had no clue who was John Stamos, the concert's host. Metzin, a CAMP intern, looked at me disapprovingly as I did not know he starred in the

sitcom Full House. In fact, I had no clue who most of the performers were, but I enjoyed each performance. My highlights of the night were the performances by the National Symphony Orchestra, Lee Brice, Gone West,



MusiCorps, and Laine Hardy. Also, on the July 4th performance, Wendy, Cathy, and I appeared on national television on the PBS channel (59:40 minute)! You might be wondering if going to the same performance twice is worth it...then I would say yes!



Friday consisted of the Smithsonian National Zoo. Wendy, Rosa, Metzin, and I walked around and looked at elephants, reptiles, sea life, gorillas, etc. My favorite part of the zoo was the section where animals were free to run wherever they wanted to. Even though I was almost taken out by a bird as it flew right past me, and Metzin, Wendy, and Rosa were personally attacked by a pink bird, I enjoyed observing the plants and the animals while they can fly around as they wish. There is always an emotional connection when seeing primates in the zoo. Perhaps it is their close resemblance to humans, but I tend to empathize with them.



Compared to the other days of the week, Saturday was a crazy day. In the morning, Metzin, Rosa, Wendy, and I took off to the United States National Arboretum. It is a beautiful, scenic place surrounded by trees and plants. We only visited a small portion of the place to take pictures, but it is a very large place. We were worried for possible rain, but thankfully, it was mostly dry for the morning. We were able to get a copious amount of photos in the place. We then traveled to



Union Station to get food and plan the rest of the trip. We ended up deciding to go to District Wharf, which has shops, recreational water activities, seafood, and live performances. We hung out there for a while, and even bought overpriced sorbetto. Unfortunately, a severe storm came our way and we had to seek shelter in a bookstore. Afterwards, we had the opportunity to meet a very interesting Lyft driver. I honestly believe that we spent a total of 2-3 hours during the day deciding where to eat and what places to visit next.



Sunday consisted of visiting the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum and the Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum. The Holocaust Museum incorporated graphic images, artifacts, and videos of the horrors that many people experienced. The burned bodies, shoes, photographs, children's drawings, and personal recollections of the Holocaust gives me a different perspective of what I have learned in the books and through the words of my teachers. It

becomes more personal, and I wish that rural communities would have access to museums such as the Holocaust Memorial Museum to get a better understanding of the torture that many people suffered during those times. The Air and Space Museum was a short visit, but my highlight was the spectrometers that the museum exhibited. In the chemistry course at Adams State University, we experimentally worked with spectrometry and how it works, so I was really excited to see a whole section of the museum dedicated to it. I wish that my communities back home can see what I see, and feel what I feel when I look at the exhibits. For now, I can only tell of my experiences in the museums here in Washington D.C. and be someone else's lens of history.

