

Bi-weekly Adolescent Update XV: The Adolescents Take Washington

Our trip to DC the week before last was packed full of activities! On the first day, we arrived at our hotel and set out on an epic walking adventure. We navigated the Metro and downtown to get to the Mall, and particularly enjoyed visiting the Vietnam War and Lincoln Memorials. Hours later, hungry and tired, the students were revived by Subway and Shake Shack for dinner. We made our way back to the hotel via the Metro, 3 buses, and a very nice gentleman without whom we might have ended up sleeping at the bus stop. Oh, and it was pouring rain. Although this was cited as one of the low points of the trip, out of it came a highlight of the trip, an entertaining round of bus-stop-beatboxing.



The second day of the trip brought sunshine, and a morning visit to the International Museum of Crime and Punishment, a disturbing but fascinating place. After lunch, we continued to the National Archives, where we stood in wonder reading our nation's founding documents. We continued on to the Museum of American History, followed by a game of categories outside on the Mall. After dinner, we continued on, one group to Ford's Theater for a very funny evening, and another group to the movies for a science fiction experience.



On the third day, in mixed weather, we took the National Air and Space Center by storm, before finding ourselves in the cafeteria of an office building for lunch. We proceeded on to a Labor Union rally, and got a taste of citizen participation. We walked by the Capitol on our way to the Supreme Court, where we got to see the courtroom. We visited the Botanic Garden, and played many rounds of volleyball...without a net. We ended the day with dinner in Chinatown, one of the cited highlights of the trip.

On the last day, we spent the morning at the zoo. The pandas were a hit, as were the Dippin' Dots. We visited with Congressman Jon Runyan at his office, and then went to Jumbo Slice for lunch. We made the decision to go out of our way to the Steven F. Udvar-Hazy Center, which ended up being another highlight of the trip, well worth the extra driving. Well worth it despite the 5 hour drive home.



Last week we finished up our civics unit, with the students completing and presenting their projects. The projects included a card game matching Constitutional clauses and amendments to Supreme Court cases, a rewritten Declaration of Independence listing charges against our current government, and photographic representations of Supreme Court cases involving minors. We kicked off our Shakespeare unit with some reading and performance. The adolescent students were in charge of serving ice cream at the Ice Cream Social on Wednesday afternoon, wearing Soda Jerk hats and bowties.

