

Leadership Conference in Washington

A year ago when I was told that I was invited to go to Washington D.C for a leadership conference I felt a new type of excitement I had never felt before. I was going to be learning at the capital of the United States for a week with people I didn't even know. I have never been on my own for a week before, so this was a new challenge. I knew I would be rooming with other girls my own grade from other places in the U.S. or other countries. I was really looking forward to meeting new people.



Months before we left, we would have to read a study guide about leadership styles, American History, and leaders who had made positive changes. We had to do assignments on these topics as preparation for the conference. It was really interesting to learn so much and look at our own leadership styles.

The week finally arrived and I was prepared. I said goodbye to my parents and hello to new people and experiences. My roommates were from Georgia and Colorado. Even though we talked with different accents (they thought I talked funny) and came from different places, we bonded quickly. The week was so busy with visits to the Capitol building to watch congress debating, a visit to the Saudi Arabian Embassy, the original settlement at Jamestown, and many memorials and monuments. We had assignments to do, after with our groups, about most of our visits and discussions. We had to talk about our different views and opinions and learned from each other. It was a very busy week.

My group of twelve other kids was great. We all got along and supported each other. That week was so amazing and I left with lots more friends than I came with. I had such a good time and I am now a graduate of the People to People Ambassador program. This means that I can go to the International forum in Paris next year and I can't wait!

By Lauren Kembi Gr.6