

The National HEP/CAMP Association DC Internship

Weekly Journal Entry

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Date(s): July 10 - July 16, 2023

Monday, July 10 - Wednesday, July 12, 2023

INTERN MEET AND GREET WITH USDA LATINO OFFICIALS

Monday was a relaxed day for me. I was tired from the weekend and decided to come straight home after work.

Tuesday was a bit different, throughout the day I was working closely with Joyce on an upcoming project as well as preparing for the HEP/CAMP Annual Conference. Toward the end of Tuesday, the HEP/CAMP interns were invited to attend a Meet and Greet with USDA Latino Officials. What would be the odds that Xochitl Torres Small, newly Deputy Secretary of Agriculture would be there. Earlier that day, the office staff and I were watching the committee in action. We were excited to hear she was elected as the first Latina to serve as Deputy Secretary of Agriculture. It was such an amazing opportunity to be able to meet her in person and be her first public group. We were also able to meet so many other people and enjoy tacos with them. After the event, we were able to take the extra food home, in fact, Antonio took home a whole bottle of lemonade.

Tuesday was also free Slurpee day because it was 7/11, and I had to make a midnight stop at 7-eleven.

Wednesday was also a relaxed day, and I had to stop to get my \$4 empanadas before going to church.



Thursday, July 13, 2023

HERSHEY PARK

As I had mentioned, I was starting to hang out more with Katie and Josue. I ended up getting the day off from work on Thursday, and so we made plans to go to an amusement park, Hershey Park. We arrived around 11:00 a.m. as it was a long drive, we wanted to start off easy, so our first ride was a carousel. Then went on to different rides until the three-o'clock. We decided to go eat some chicken tenders with fries and a Slushie. Something that surprised me at Hershey Park is that it has a zoo. We visited this section of the park and headed back to get on the rides.

On our way back home, we stopped at McDonalds for food and throughout the drive back home I was doing my class reading for programming the next day.





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Friday, July 14, 2023

WEEKLY PROGRAMMING PT. 7

My day at work started at the Embajada De La República Dominicana. It was such a great opportunity to be able to visit and talk with so many amazing individuals. After, we headed back to NAB Navy Yard where we went over professional development workshops. Once again DC with its bipolar weather, right when we got off the metro it started pouring. It wasn't sprinkling, it was heavy rain, with lightning and thunder. You know everyone was so unprepared because no one had umbrellas, everyone was running trying to reach their destination and take shelter. Even us interns ran from the metro to the dorms where we got really soaked.

Despite the rain, my night did not end there. I ended up going down to the mall inside the MGM National Harbor Hotel & Casino. After walking a little we headed down to the National Harbor to ride the Ferris wheel and see the view at night. Our last stop of the night was a silver diner where we got breakfast at 10:30 p.m. because breakfast is for any time of the day.









Saturday, July 15, 2023

REUNION DAY WITH MY CAMP PROGRAM

My day started off early as I decided to go volunteer for the Grate Patrol. I woke up at 5:00 a.m. and with Anna, my roommate, we headed down to the meet spot. As soon as the clock hit 5:45 a.m. we started going around in the vehicle giving bags with food, coffee, water, and other items to the homeless. I think the Grate Patrol volunteering was such an eye-opening experience. We finished around 8:30 a.m. and headed home to rest, where I ended up taking a long nap.

Today, I was scheduled to meet with my CAMP Director, Omar Correa and Academic Advisor, Erika Madrigal. We were scheduled to meet at 11:30 a.m. I was so excited to see familiar faces and tell them all the experiences I have had but I overslept and was not ready until 1:00 p.m. Tip 9, PUT AN ALARM IF YOU ARE GOING TO TAKE A "NAP" OR MULTIPLE IF YOU KNOW YOU WON'T WAKE UP WITHIN THE FIRST ALARM.

We were able to greet each other, and we headed to the Lincoln Memorial to take some pictures. After taking some pictures I was starving, I skipped breakfast in the morning and did not have time to eat anything before meeting them. Thankfully Omar had a BBQ place in mind, and can I just say I ate like I have never eaten before. I don't know if it was because I was hungry or because everything was so good. I would also like to say that Erika and Omar are really the definition of "familia" within the CAMP community, throughout the whole time they would check up on me to see if I needed anything. Even after we finished eating, they offered to go to Walmart with me to buy some groceries and anything I needed.

After going back to the dorm, I went ahead and changed to head to gravelly point, a popular place to see the airplanes land. Which in my opinion was a great way to end the night.



Sunday, July 16, 2023

RAMEN DAY

As usual, my day started off by going to church but instead of going out to eat with the brothers and sisters from the Kingdom Hall, I rushed back home to change to head to Tysons Corner Center with Anna (aka my roomie). We took the metro, and once there we decided to get some ramen to eat. Tip 10, MAKE SURE YOU EAT SOMETHING IN THE MORNING, IT WILL KEEP YOU ENERGIZED UNTIL YOUR NEXT MEAL. I got into a bad habit of skipping breakfast, so I recommend eating at least a banana.

Tip 11 HAVE A BUDGET FOR SPENDING. Tysons Mall is dangerous, so many stores, as I purchased several items. After our shopping spree, we got ice cream and called it a day.

