

The National HEP/CAMP Association DC Internship

Weekly Journal Entry

Name: Abigail Alejandra Sanchez

Date(s): July 24 - July 30, 2023

Monday, July 24 - Tuesday, July 25, 2023

WALK AT THE WHARF

As mentioned before thanks to Ruby De La Garza I was able to help in the USDA Kiki De La Garza Fellowship where I was able to meet and connect with Herminia Gomez. I was able to have a Zoom call with her today and talk a little about my future plans. After work, I signed up to volunteer with Chris at DC Central Kitchen.

After volunteering we headed down to The Wharf where we walked a little and ended up buying ice cream. The highlight of the day was the swings we found right on the Wharf.

The next day, I started off by going for breakfast with Chris and spent most of my day working on my Instagram takeover, taking pictures and videos of everything I did throughout my day.





Wednesday, July 26, 2023

ALL-DAY CHCI EVENTS

Today I was selected to help give the NextGen tour on the hill for the CHCI program. I do not work on the hill, so I was more there to be of support. It was also my first time on the hill, and I was amused by everything we did and saw. We had 5 amazing, smart, and talented high schoolers. We started off the day by having lunch and right after meeting with Representative Luis Correa, and Melvin Sanchez, staff of Representative G. Napolitano. After the tour, we had more time than expected and Antonio (CHCI intern) showed them around the Longworth House Office Building and took them to a hearing committee in the Cannon House Office Building.

Once the clock hit 4:30 p.m., we started to head over to drop them off by the bus as today was also our Summer 2023 Graduation Reception. Even though Matthews Smith was not able to attend, I had a lot of support from the USDA, Lisa Ramirez, Fabiola Torres, Willette Squire, and Joshua Moose (who even ended up wearing a penguin suit) came to support me. I also had the support of my two new closest friends Katie and Josue. That was the moment when I realized that the people you meet and the connections you make will truly have an impact on you. It felt so nice having people come to see your accomplishments and continue to support you throughout your journey.



Thursday, July 27, 2023

KINGS DOMINION

I think I have a little obsession with amusement parks, this time I took a trip down to Kings Dominion with a bigger group. I sadly was not able to take many pictures, but I really enjoyed the whole day. Going from one ride to another until a small accident happened. For some of the rides you had to pay for lockers to put your stuff in, but we noticed that many people were just putting their stuff on top of the lockers. So, we started to do that until coming out of a ride one of the bags was missing. We all started to freak out and get a little nervous as inside the bag there were two phones, a wallet, and two pairs of glasses (one being mine) and just so you have an idea we (Rose and I) are both very blind without our glasses. Eventually, we found the bag, and it turns out someone turned it in. Tip 13, PAY FOR A TWO-DOLLAR LOCKER, INSTEAD OF RISKING IT. After a long day, we stopped by Wendy's to eat and headed home.

Once home most of the interns were working on their blog post for CHCI programming tomorrow, including me. Tip 14, DO NOT LEAVE THINGS FOR THE LAST MINUTE. As you may already be thinking, I did not finish my blog until 4:00 a.m. in the morning. That being said around 1:00 a.m., Chris, Ben, Prettystar, and I headed to seven eleven for some Slurpees





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Friday, July 28, 2023

WEEKLY CHCI PROGRAMMING PT. 9

Many of the interns were tired today, but after we got started presenting our blogs everyone suddenly was awake. There were so many good and interesting topics that we went over lunchtime. After lunch, we went over the upcoming events and had a Grad School & Law School Panel. This is where I met Aaron Campos, who graduated from California State University, Bakersfield (my school). I was filled with joy when I heard that he attended the same university I'm attending. I was able to exchange contact information and plan to stay in touch.

Today, the video that I was working on was posted by the USDA Instagram account and the FFA program at my high school came across the video. After programming, I headed home to change as I had plans with Katie and Josue to watch the Barbie movie (which was a good movie if you ask me). Where we tried to sneak in food and well that did not go so well.



Saturday, July 29, 2023

RAMEN DATE PT. 2

I started my day by going to the community service one last time for the Grate Patrol Team. Tip 15, DO NOT WEAR SHORTS, MOSQUITOES WILL EAT YOU ALIVE. I thought it would be a good idea to wear shorts, well it was not because I walk through tall grass a lot during my volunteer time. I still had a good time volunteering though, after reaching home I told Anna I was going to take a quick nap before heading to the Eastern Market together. Thankfully she was patient with me because the “30-minute nap” turned into a whole hour. We both did a little shopping at the Eastern Market and then headed to get souvenirs to bring back to California.

Once we were done with our shopping, Katie and Josue picked us up and went to get boba. We also went to the Westfield Montgomery Mall where it started raining. The storm was not pretty, we decided to run through the storm and almost slipped. It was also Anna’s and mine’s first time trying the famous overpriced Georgetown Cupcakes. Won’t lie though, they were pretty good. Our day ended with eating some ramen and going to go watch Spider-Man: Across the Spider-Verse.



Sunday, July 30, 2023

TAKING MEMORIES BACK HOME

As usual, I headed down to the church and afterward went with Katie and Josue to eat and get ice cream. Once the clock hit 5:30 p.m. We headed to the volleyball courts to play, knowing it was going to be my last

After playing for a while Katie, Anna, Rose, and I decided to go down to Georgetown to eat pizza and drink boba. We decided to ride electric scooters and paired up in two groups - Katie and Rose, and me and Anna. Which was our first mistake. Tip 16, DO NOT GET ON THE SCOOTERS WITH TWO PEOPLE. We were heading to the monuments and a bike crossed in front of me and Anna then fell off. I did not listen to Josh when he said, "Don't do anything stupid". At Least, I can say that it was the last adventure that happened that weekend and will take these memories to California. However, that did not stop us from going to the monuments.

