

The National HEP/CAMP Association DC Internship

Weekly Journal Entry

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Date(s): July 17 - July 23, 2023

Monday, July 17, 2023

FIRE...?

What a way to start the morning, right as I was getting ready the fire alarm went off. My roomie and I thought that she had set the alarm off as she was cooking. That was not the case though, we had to evacuate, and I had to let my supervisor know that I was going to be late. According to the fire department, it was not a drill, and I did not arrive at work until 10:00 a.m. Tip 11, PAY ATTENTION TO YOUR CALENDAR DATES AND TIMES. I had forgotten my Intern lunch with Marco was changed to today instead of Wednesday, so dress code wise I was not too prepared. I was wearing my Converse but apart from that small little detail, the lunch went very well. We got to eat burgers and chicken tenders as well as connect with Marco.

Once again, I was running late to meet my CAMP director and advisor. I was so excited to speak about my experience that I invited them to visit my workspace today. Thankfully they are both very understanding and had the patience to wait for me. Today was also the swearing-in ceremony for Deputy Secretary Xochitl Torres Small, so I was glad my CAMP director and advisor were able to witness this USDA event. I was able to present them to some of the people I met and finally showed them my workspace. Apart from having a rough start, I would like to say I had a good time showing my CAMP family around the USDA.



Tuesday, July 18, 2023

2023 USDA FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT SUMMIT

Matthews might be a 6'4 guy and may look a little intimidating, but once you meet him, he is one of the sweetest guys you will ever meet. Thanks to him I was able to attend the 2023 USDA Financial Management Summit "The Challenge of Change". I had the opportunity to expand my knowledge in the management area as well as being able to talk to Matthews and Joshua more on a personal level over lunch.

After work, I headed to the CHCI Summer Intern Social where I had a good time being able to meet other interns who were not only placed on the hill but also at the Department of Agriculture. It was nice meeting people who had a similar career interest as me. After the social event, I decided to go for a small shopping spree down to Ellsworth Place.



Wednesday, July 19, 2023

HEP/CAMP ANNUAL DIRECTOR MEETING

My morning started off by getting ready and meeting with the other 7 CAMP interns to head down to the Annual Director Meeting. We were all happy to see our “dad” Patrick who helped us get through the first week. We had the amazing opportunity to be speakers and speak about our experience as interns. I also had the opportunity to prepare for the resource fair, where I was able to work with Maria Goldberg (another amazing person I met through the USDA).

After all the interns got to share their experiences, I headed back to my office to gather the materials we were going to present at the resource fair. Also, today was Wednesday, I needed to pass by for my weekly empanadas. I really wanted my CAMP director and advisor to try some before they left. Before I arrived at the U.S. Department of Education, I stopped by the farmers market to get some empanadas. Thankfully once again Erika and Omar had the patience to wait for me to say bye before they left for the airport.

The resource fair itself went well; I was able to make some connections who I hope to reach out to soon. After taking everything back to the office, I went ahead and took the metro to Full Kee Restaurant. As we had lunch with the leadership team.



Thursday, July 20 - Friday, July 21, 2023

NEW YORK TRIP PT. 1

My day at work was productive as I was able to finish some of my unfinished assignments. As I got home, I started to pack my bag, around midnight, as I was leaving for New York. The drive felt long so most of the people I was going with fell asleep on the ride there.

We arrived around 7:00 a.m. and stopped to have breakfast. After breakfast, our first stop was Warwick Bethel where we were able to explore The Bible and The Divine Name as well as Faith in Action. From there, we headed to Walkill (United States Branch Office of Jehovah's Witnesses), where we were able to have an overview of the various ways Jehovah is addressing the needs of others as well as the production of our literature.

After being able to explore Warwick and Walkill we headed to our hotel rooms to change to go back out and have a carne asada at Poughkeepsie. Where we were able to have a good time eating food, playing board games, and taking pictures. The night did not end there as when we got back home, we continued playing board games.





Saturday, July 22, 2023

NEW YORK TRIP PT. 2

Our morning started off with breakfast at the hotel, after we headed to Lake Minnewaska. This was my favorite part of the trip; I really enjoy nature and hiking. The visitor center had so much amusing stuff inside as well as hands-on activities. The view of the lake itself is very beautiful and we took a lot of pictures.

Also, we decided to go down to New York to ride the ferry to see the Statue of Liberty and eat New York pizza and freshly cut fruit. We visited a small island, to take more pictures, as well as the Vessel. After visiting different locations, we decided to head down to Times Square to do some shopping and eat in Havana. Tip 12, **STAY CLOSE WITH YOUR FRIENDS**. Personally, Time Square was my least favorite place because of how crowded it was. We had to hold hands to not get lost, but after a long day of exploring we headed back to the hotel room to get some rest.







Sunday, July 23, 2023

BACK AT DC

We left the hotel around 9:00 a.m. and started our trip back home. Once again it was a long trip but taking naps makes the time traveling go by fast. I ended up getting back to my dorm around 3:30 p.m., and I changed my clothes and headed to Georgetown with Josue and KT. The highlight of the day was my boba drink. I have no clue what I got, but I remember it was delicious. Georgetown is a nice area to walk around if you're looking for something to do.

