

The National HEPCAMP Association DC Internship

Weekly Journal Entry

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Monday & Tuesday

“2nd Week of Work!”

My week started off really well with having pretty productive days at work! On Monday I got to meet a new intern in the office, and just helped her get comfortable and as well as just getting to know her! Tuesday morning was the first day my roommate and I got to commute to work together (her first week she would go in at a later time) and that was really exciting. I also had her take a picture of me in front of my office as I realized I hadn't done that yet. After work, I made dinner with some friends and caught up with some other responsibilities while my friends played a Notre Dame themed monopoly.

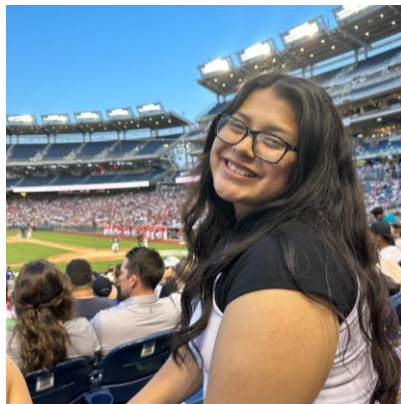


Wednesday

“Congressional Baseball Game!”

I had a very eventful and productive Wednesday! My Wednesday morning started off with accompanying my Congressman and our PR staffer to my very first press event. Our Congressman was going to be speaking at an AXIOS event and I got invited along so I could be exposed to new experiences. These opportunities are what I really value about my office, the way they really try to make my internship experience the best it can be. Not only have I been asked to help on projects they know I am passionate or interested in, but they are always open for me to make the most of my time here. At the press event I got to try my first crab-cake and I also got an inside perspective on all that comes with setting up and participating in a press event.

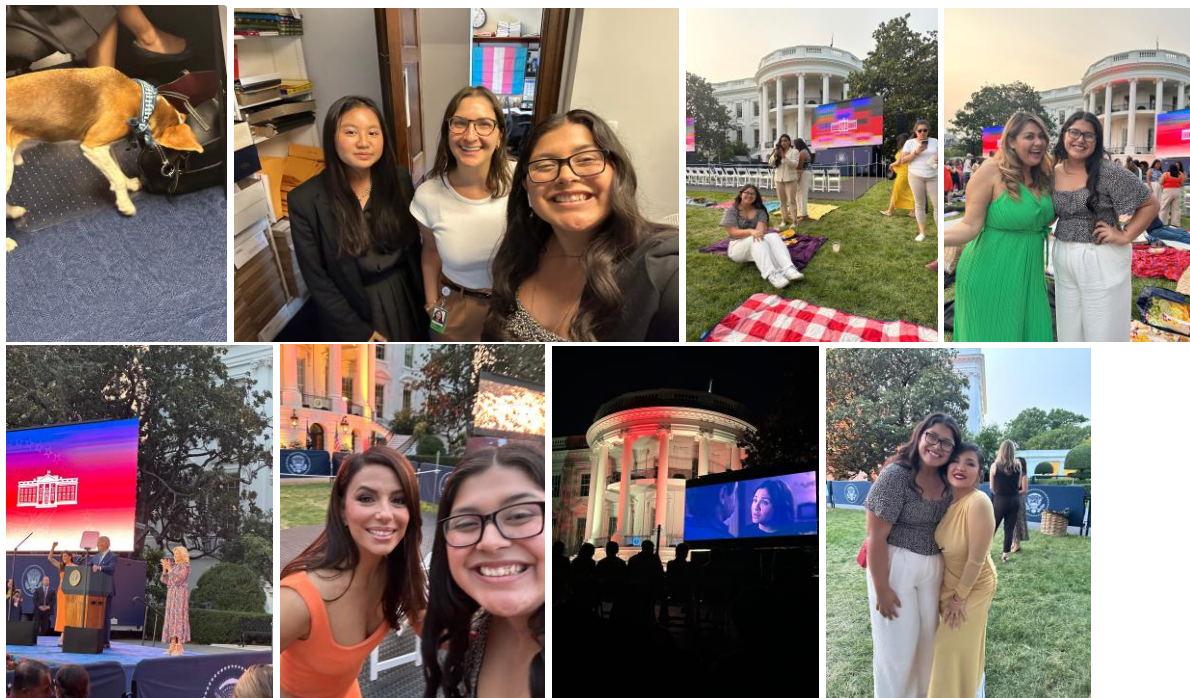
After work, I got ready to attend my first baseball game and it ended up being my first Congressional baseball game as well! Irene Bueno, a lobbyist with NVG, was kind enough to invite my whole cohort and I to the game; she made it an amazing experience and also connected us with many of the individuals in attendance there. I have been grateful for Irene’s guidance and support during my time here. Although the team I was rooting for didn’t win, it was still a very fun time!



Thursday

“POTUS, FLOTUS, & A DREAM COME TRUE!!!!”

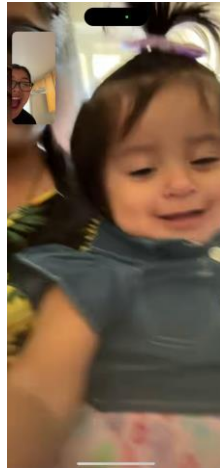
Thursday was probably one of the best days of my life. First off, I had a really great day at work, I not only got to really get to know the other intern in the office (Alyssa) but I also had a really great moment with one of my supervisors. Alyssa and I spent a good chunk of the day just talking about our interests, passions, and simply discussing how grateful we were to be having this DC experience together. I also had a really meaningful chat with one of my supervisors where she just reiterated the importance there was to make sure I always felt safe and comfortable to reach out to her, which was really special to me because it just solidified the care all of the staffers have for the interns. Also a really funny moment during work was watching Bernie (the office dog) stuff his face into Alyssa’s bag. We really have to be careful with leaving our food for Bernie to access! Once I got home from work, I quickly got ready to walk to the White House and go watch the screening of “Flamin’ Hot!” Never have I ever believed that I would be casually sitting on President Biden’s lawn eating Hot Cheetos and watching history in the making. I got to meet amazing people during the event, like Jenny Martinez and Freddy Chavez plus their partners. They are popular Latine content creators. We were all in such disbelief that we were invited to the White House and even got to see the President himself. I also got to meet the cast (Annie Gonzalez & Bobby Soto) and director (Eva Longoria) of the movie. It was such an empowering and special event for me. Getting to see a mariachi play songs I grew up with on the White House steps, and hearing everyone scream in joy “Viva Mexico,” was so surreal and a moment I will never forget. Witnessing history literally in the making was so jaw dropping. I wanted to cry so many times throughout the night, I have never felt more grateful and proud to be Mexicana.



Friday

“Tacos!”

Staying up late due to the event made waking up the next morning pretty difficult. Though once I was up and ready I headed to programming for CHCI. Programming was really fun, we had great discussions about our identities and our values, plus we got yummy tacos for lunch! After programming I came home and made pasta for my friends and I, and I also called my family back home to catch up.



Weekend

“Kayaking & Friends!”

For someone who doesn't know how to swim, I still sure do love the water. Saturday morning, my friends and I decided to go kayaking in Georgetown. Although I am facing the repercussions of soreness now, it was still very fun to kayak and take in the beautiful day we had ahead of us. By the time our session was over, we were all starving so we went to go get some refreshing açai bowls and go explore the rest of Georgetown. My friends and I weren't too big of fans of the hills in Georgetown but it was still very fun to wander and shop around. We ended our adventures around 3 PM, and by the time we got home we all took a very long nap. A few hours later we got up and ate dinner and had friends over to make cookies from scratch and play some board games. We joke around with our friend from across the hall that she is basically our honorary roommate since she's always in our dorm, and to reinforce this statement she basically moved in that night and brought in all of her bedding. Eventually we did have to ask her to go back to her room haha.

On Sunday we got an early start and headed to the zoo. We got to see a lot of rare animals we have never seen before and even got to see multiple pandas! Eventually the heat and hunger got the best of us and after 3 hours at the zoo we headed to McDonald's for lunch. For the rest of the day we just used to cool down and relax.

