

Talquin Youth Tour 2024.

If you've pushed yourself out of your comfort zone and ended up enjoying it, then we have something in common. I did this about a month ago when I applied and got accepted into the Talquin Youth Tour. I had no idea what to expect and it's safe to say I ended up being pleasantly surprised. I knew I was applying for a scholarship and overnight trip, but I had no idea this trip would shift my perspective on so much.

I packed up my stuff at 6 am and got ready to be on the go until the next day at 2:30 pm. In these short hours, I did so much. First, I got interviewed. They picked 4 finalists out of our 16-person group to go to Washington D.C. on a follow up youth tour. I learned my lesson on how to answer the question "Tell us about yourself". (Tell the interviewer about interesting things you like to do and who you are.) Then the group left to tour the FSU campus and experience a lecture from the officer of admissions. The FSU campus was gorgeous as well as flourishing with student life. Our next stop was the hotel to drop our bags and then District 850! I made so many friends. We bowled, played laser tag, threw balls at a clown game and got out all our energy before the next day. The following day, we went to the capital. We held mock trials in the house of representatives and the senate. We learned how they both run and the current bill the house is trying to pass. We got to ask house members questions and learned about how diversity of people is a necessity for a smoothly run government. Everybody in the capital was extremely well spoken and educated. Since I have never been in an environment this professional before, it gave me insight into what the business world consists of.

I finally said my goodbyes to my newly made friends. At the banquet, they revealed the final 4. I am proud to say Vanessa Foreman as well as myself, will be going to Washington! I'm so grateful for the experiences I gained from this and the ones I will gain this summer from D.C. This tour will forever remain a big part of why I love learning.

I want to say a special thank you to Talquin for providing this opportunity for students.