

**THE NATIONAL SOCIETY
OF
THE COLONIAL DAMES OF AMERICA**
National Patriotic Service Committee Congressional Seminar Project

THE 2010 WASHINGTON WORKSHOPS EXPERIENCE
(Excerpts taken from reports of the 2010 participants)

Overall, the entire seminar was a perfect way to broaden my horizons while also letting me have a lot of fun. I would easily recommend it to anyone interested in politics and history!

The Model Congress gave all of us a unique window into the functioning—or lack thereof—of the national legislature.

While touring the monuments and museums was the most enjoyable, the most intellectually stimulating experience I gained was from the guest speakers.

The touring was definitely the highlight of my stay in DC, yet the biggest experience for me was the ability to demystify our national government.

I highly recommend the Washington Workshops conference. The staff was so warm and welcoming and made the week very fun.

Thanks to the seminar, I got to go one step beyond sightseeing, to catch a glimpse of the political life and cultural importance of D.C.

Most valuable to me was the opportunity to meet with my state Representative and one of my Senators—something I may never have done had it not been facilitated by the Seminar.

One of the greatest influences from the trip came from the people who accompanied me. The other contest winners were so varied and intimate in their knowledge and experiences that it was great to learn about each of them. The trip gave me confidence that I do fit in. . . .

It was one of the most educationally enriching and personally gratifying experiences I have ever had.

Through both the essay contest, which inspired me to think critically about the Supreme Court cases that have greatly impacted life in America, and the trip itself, I learned a lot about our country and about what makes the United States such a unique nation.

Normally a shy person, I had the chance to put my shyness aside and contribute something to group discussions, especially the Model Congress—something I never would have done before that will help a great deal later in life.

I thank the Colonial Dames of America for sponsoring such an amazing trip. Any group willing to dedicate so much time and money to the teaching and inspiration of America's youth deserves America's gratitude.

Most of all, I enjoyed the day we spent at the Capital. We were given incredible freedom to roam around the Capital Building and the House and Senate Office Buildings. I registered for a library card to enter the Library of Congress, and then just walked into a few Senate committee hearings. I sat next to reporters from prominent national newspapers. .

The part of the trip I enjoyed the most and will last the longest is the friends I made while participating. Never before have I networked and become such good friends with people living thousands of miles away....