

Samantha Rivera  
Journal entry  
June 28



Good morning Saturday! A day to relax and see what new adventures they have planned for us. We were up early to

meet Dr. Ramirez; Director of the Migrant Education Department at Huntington. When we first



arrived she asked, “How well can we swim, and did we bring an extra pair of clothes”, good thing we all packed our swimsuits, and trunks. The drive to the lake was longer than we all expected. When we finally arrived to our destination, I was so glad to be out of the car and stretch out my legs. While everyone else was changing to get ready to go swimming; some of the interns, and I walked

over to one of the ramps to view the lake. As we leaned over the ramp the first thing we saw was a Plain-bellied Water snake; which is said to be harmless, but still venomous. Snakes are one of my worst fears, so I

was not going in the lake knowing there could be more of them. Once I told Dr. Ramirez that I was not going in, Diana; one of the other interns asked if we could use one of the canoes together



instead of going inside the water. Some of the interns went paddle boarding and others went canoeing. While we were on the river my mind started to feel at ease since the encounter of the snake. I felt like I was one with the water, and nothing in the world could ruin this experience.



Diana really enjoyed paddle boarding and going on a canoe, it was her first time experiencing both of these activities. We both made sure to take pictures of each other paddling the canoe. Believe me Diana and I paddle quit of bit on that canoe.



Sunday, a day where I woke up not wanting to move any part of my body, but I knew that my

time here in D.C. was coming to an end pretty soon. Come to think of it I really have not seen any of the museums that my family wanted me to see

before they arrived. As, I walk through the Natural History Museum. I actually expected to see the same layout as the movie, “*Night of the Museum*”, but I was wrong. Walking in the museum the first thing I see is this big elephant not Rex. While I continue to explore around I could not believe I was here looking at all the





different animals and their environment where they developed from past generations. One of my favorite parts of the museum was walking through the live butterfly exhibit, and holding all the different species of butterflies. The butterflies were flying everywhere and they were landing on my hand, hair, and hat. It felt like I was in a dream being surrounded by all these butterflies; which I never want to wake up. Sadly, the lady that was in charge woke me up from my dream and told me my time was up. Another exciting part of that museum was getting to hold a

Madagascar; a cockroach. Crazy thing, a lady had on in her hair and she did not even know it because the scientist that was showing them was called to the Beetle Exhibit. Apparently, one of the lights went out and need someone to attend to it as soon as possible.

Monday, came so fast but went so slow. There was no briefing all week since there was no voting that needed to be done. So, basically the Hill was really slow, which was a new thing for me since the day I started had been fast paced. Only difference for this week is that all of this week it is my turn to open up the office for all the staff members, and make sure everything is in perfect order for the congressman just the way he likes it.



The highlight of my week had to be on Thursday. The congressman walked in unannounced asking one of his staff members about some information around locations near the hill. His staffer was busy finishing up the earlier tasks the congressman had instructed her to do. She was still working on the assignment so I asked her if there was

anything I could help her with and she said yes. When I received her email regarding the information our congressman wanted, it took me about six minutes to locate all the information and email it to her. She then prepared to print out the information and walk it over to his office. As he got off the phone when I walked in and he reviewed the information and he gave me thumbs up as well as a pat on the back. Which was an awesome feeling but what made my day was when he asked, "Who opened up the office today"? At first I was hesitant to answer him thinking maybe I did something wrong, but I told him it was me and waited to get into trouble. Instead of getting in trouble for something wrong I thought I



may have done, I received a complement for arranging his desk and cleaning up some of the binders he had on his chair. The compliment from my congressman may be small to others but for me it was a big deal for me.

