

Paige Wergin, NE – 2016

Being a USSYP delegate carries a lot of meaning. It means that I am privileged enough to have gotten to know 103 of this country's brightest and most outgoing students. It also means that I was able to have experiences in our nation's capital and government, learning and gaining appreciation for just how much we Americans have for leaders.

As most delegates who recount hearing about being selected say, I did not expect to be selected for this program. I applied for the scholarship because my history teacher had encouraged me to look into it. I was called into the principal's office to hear a phone call on speaker mode notifying me that I had been selected as a delegate to this program. I was in absolute disbelief. How could a student from small town Nebraska like me be going on a trip to the U.S. Capitol with students from around the country?

Washington Week was filled with once-in-a-lifetime sessions and experiences: visiting historical sites like Mount Vernon and hearing from speakers like Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg and President Obama. I still can't believe that I was able to hear these great minds speak in person and learn from what they had to share.

My experience in Washington, D.C. was unlike any other. The United States Senate Youth Program provided me with an opportunity that I would never have dreamed of receiving. I cannot begin to express my gratitude to them for all that they do for the purpose of giving students an in-depth look into our wonderful nation's government.