

Sean-Patrick Hurst, KS - 2021

Hi, my name is Sean Hurst, and I represented the great state of Kansas as a delegate to the United States Senate Youth Program. My Washington Week ONLINE was very intellectual and inspiring. I learned from some of our best leaders about leadership and the roles the government plays in our everyday life. I made many fantastic memories by talking with other delegates from other states and listening to some of our country's most decorated leaders.

There are many different events and speakers I liked throughout my Washington Week Online. One of my favorite speakers was Justice Clarence Thomas. He gave us many inspirational quotes and life lessons that I will use throughout my life. He taught us how the Supreme Court works and how they get along with each other. One of his quotes that will stick to me is, "Do unto others, as you want to be done unto." I like this quote because this is a formula for success in life. I want to become an officer in the United States Naval Academy, and to be able to obtain this position; I need to respect everyone with the same amount of respect I want.

Throughout my Washington Week, all of the tours were virtual; however, they were still very detailed and intriguing. The most exciting tour, I found, was the Mount Vernon tour. I learned a lot about George Washington's place of residence, including the background of this historical location. I thought the most remarkable thing about the tour was the key that was framed by the stairwell, the key to the Bastille given to him by Revolutionary War hero Lafayette. Another tour I liked was the International Space Station. I thought it was cool when they explained what tasks they did and what chores they had to do in their daily lives.

I thought it was cool when we were able to talk to Norah O'Donnell, and she spoke on the set. She was talking to the other delegates like she was on the news set. She talked to us about her job and how dangerous it can be to conduct an interview. She explained how a person should conduct an interview and hit the situation on its head and not avoid it. I also liked talking to Captain Scott Kelly. I thought it was cool how he told us how he was unsuccessful in high school and college and managed to push through all of that and become an astronaut.

I had a great time throughout my Washington Week ONLINE and met many other delegates and our country's leaders. I learned so much that I will apply in my life and use it to be successful. I wish my Washington Week was in person and not online, but I still had a great time and learned a lot about our government. I had the opportunity to talk to many different leaders and utilized my time to know the most I could.