

Exploring America's Capital: Washington, D.C.

Written by Mahira Gupta on 4/18/2025



I could not believe what my eyes were seeing - beautiful landmarks like the Delaware River, Capitol, the George Washington Monument etc. so it was evident that I was on the way to Washington D.C. I wanted to go on this trip because I knew that it would be an awesome start to my spring break. Our main destination was the Smithsonian National Air & Space Museum but we could visit 2 other destinations as well. Air Tigers and Torpedo Factory Art Center. I expected to learn about space and planes from the Smithsonian National Air & Space Museum. I was interested to learn and see something new.

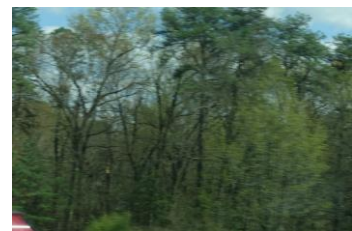
During the long trip, my friends and I played many games together. As we passed the wonderful views of New Jersey, Pennsylvania and Delaware, I took out my vintage camera and took some awesome photos.



Trees in New Jersey



Beautiful Lake in Delaware



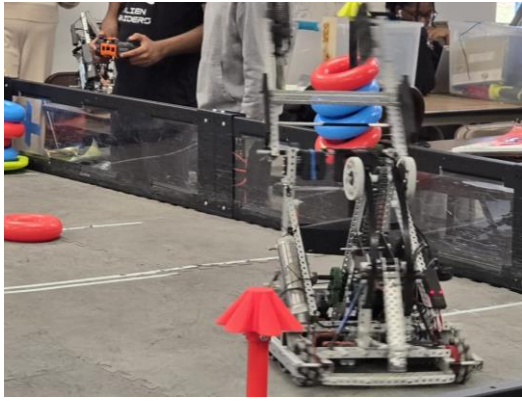
Forests in Maryland

Before we stopped at our first destination, it was the lunch time. My mom and I entered the food court and we ate the noodles. During lunch, we were talking about how the trip was going so far and laughing at the hysterical things we were saying to each other. I immediately felt happy when we were talking together that I did not want to stop but we had to go to our next destination. As we stepped on the bus, I felt delighted. We were going to Air Tiger Robotics. I am immensely in love with robots so when I knew we were going there, I felt excited. After 2 hours, we arrived. When we entered, we sat down and waited for someone to come. A few minutes later, 2 men and 1 woman came into the room. The first man started talking and then asked us about school and what robotics or technology programs they offered. Honestly, I am a very shy girl so I was quite hesitant but I answered anyway. After he asked us about school, he talked about his life before he started working there and gathering students for the Rotary Club (a club that does amazing stuff for the environment). I learned that he was a marine which is quite fascinating if you ask me and also the woman who was there was his wife. Then, the other man started talking about his life before he worked here and I learned that he was also a marine. Afterwards, we had some of my favorite Indian snacks: Mango lassi, idli and vada.



idli and vada we had there

Then we had a choice to go see a robot or go play sports. This was a quick decision because as I mentioned, I am immensely in love with robots. When we arrived, my mind was blown into pieces. The robot that I was looking at was able to gather foam rings and put them on a tube. After a few minutes of teaching us, the high schooler let us control the robot. It was an awesome experience.



The robot we controlled



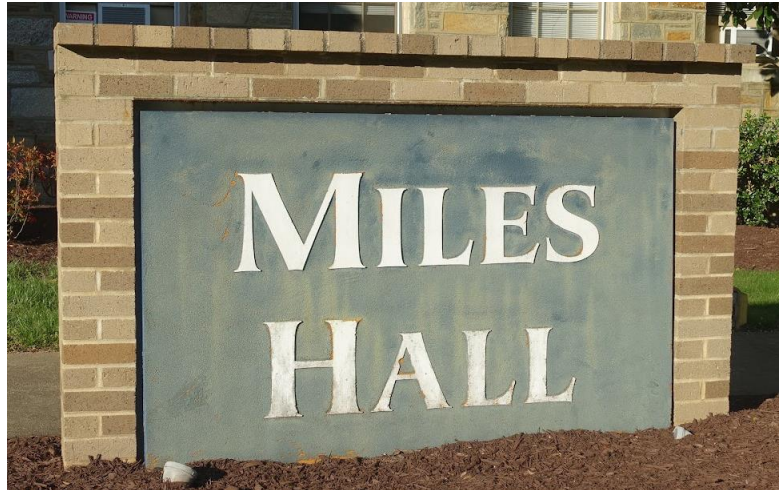
Me controlling the robot

Then we played basketball and we went for a walk.



Beautiful grasslands we saw on the walk

During the walk, we met a guy who was an artist and was helping make a butterfly garden the Rotary Club was making. His pieces of art are sculptures that raise awareness of all the pollution. The most fascinating part was when he showed a picture of the underwater aquarium he made for the fish. He was talking about the Rotary Club and all the fascinating things that they did and how if you want to be part of the robotics club, you have to have done some community service around the area. During his speech, I was thinking about how cool it would be to start a Rotary Club in my area in NY. I could invite my friends to my house and we could plan some community events like picking up trash or trying to find e-waste and reduce the amount of lead and mercury into the land and help the community by making it healthy. We could educate people about pollution and how to stop it. Finally, we had dinner. We had a burrito and afterwards, we went to our hotel.



The place, we had dinner

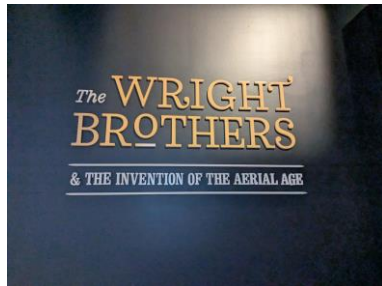
Then we arrived at the hotel. Afterwards, my mom and I sat on the bed and talked about the day and how it was one of the best days.

The next day, we had to wake up early as we had to leave the hotel at 9 am. When we sat on the bus, we learned that we were going to the Torpedo art museum. There were amazing pieces of art and I really didn't want to leave. After 15 min, we arrived at the Smithsonian National Air & Space Museum. The ride to the museum was fantastic. We saw the Capitol and the George Washington Monument.



When we entered the museum, the only thing that came out of my mouth was wonderful. There were so many planes that I almost thought this was an airport. The first exhibit we went to was the Wright Brothers.

Did you know they created the first working planes?



Afterwards, we saw a video on the universe. *Did you know the universe was hotter than the sun?* Then, after lunch, we went to “America by Air.” *Did you know that Boeing 247 was one of the first modern airliners?* Then we went to my favorite section of the museum: Nation of Speed. There were so many interactive things. *Did you know that you can control the speed of things using different instruments?* Finally, it was time to go home. We learned so many things and I loved all the interactive exhibits. They showcased multiple planes and they all looked amazing. This trip was amazing. **THANK YOU**, Rotary Club for sponsoring this trip.

