

USSYP 2010
Jennifer Lawson

Who would have thought a girl from Louisville, Kentucky would have been chosen for a prestigious program like USSYP? But that did happen, and I did go and it was- *amazing*. Being able to be independent and fly to a different city by yourself is quite exhilarating. But, what was the best part of the whole experience was doing things people dream of.

I have two favorite speakers out of the many that we had. When Sonia Sotomayor walked in and automatically wanted to see all our faces, that was nice. She was personable, friendly, intelligent and charming. Her stories of her life and the answers to some difficult questions made her quite memorable to me. Another wonderful speaker was a strong women, a women who was confident in what she did and her country- *Meera Shankar*. Her elegance and confidence were brightly shown as her speech impacted majority of the students.

Many people dream of going to either the White House, the Supreme Court and even the Capital. For us USSYPers to be given the chance to go to all three, it is quite remarkable. But it is even more remarkable to talk to the President in the White House, to talk to Justice Sonia Sotomayor in the Supreme Court, and to see the senators in action at the Capital.

Doing all those things just make the experience seem so unrealistic and far away but it is not. Many of us dream of some day working in Washington and doing what many of our speakers do. My goals and dreams seem more realistic now then they did. I can no believe whole heartedly that I can run for Governor or Mayor an actually win. That is in thanks to USSYP and the Hearst Foundation.