



The Ambassadors GAZETTE

Culture Center

WEST VIRGINIA STATE CAPITOL COMPLEX

June 2018

WV AMBASSADORS IN THE CAPITAL CITY!

Students hopped aboard the *River Queen* with the Charleston Convention and Visitors Bureau and explored the city and its beautiful views from the Kanawha River. See more photos of the river tour on page 16.



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Ambassadors Camp Counselors

Matthew Altobello
Petersburg High School

Bo Berry
Chapmanville High School

Kennetha Parker-Howes
Hacker Valley K - 8

Tim James
Cabell Midland High School

Dawn McGinnis
Trap Hill Middle School

Randall Reid-Smith
West Virginia Department of
Arts, Culture and History



A Message from Curator Randall Reid-Smith

The West Virginia Ambassadors Camp is a tremendous opportunity for our state's youngest and brightest to come together and form friendships with their peers from around the state, while celebrating excellence in history and the arts. It has been the pinnacle event of each summer at the Culture Center since its inception in 2012.

The West Virginia Ambassadors Camp provides the opportunity to develop a passion for not only arts, culture and history, but for the state of West Virginia. The next generation of our leaders come to Charleston from all corners of this state with an enthusiasm and energy that is as bright as the summer sun reflecting off of our beautiful State Capitol.

This year's campers had the special opportunity to spend their time in our state capital celebrating the Mountain State's 155th birthday. It was amazing to see the youth of our state, our future leaders, celebrating our state by singing state songs and bringing joy to those joining in the festivities.

As you toured our State Capitol, Governor's Mansion, and State Museum, we hope that you basked in the history and architecture that houses and preserves some of our state's finest collections. During your internships, we hope that you enjoyed the opportunity to learn first-hand from professionals in state government, and learned about how these individuals work together each day for the betterment of our great state. Lastly, we hope you enjoyed your experience on the Kanawha River, soaking in the view of the city and the State Capitol while afloat on the same waters that were so important to our early settlers.

While we encourage you to learn more about our state and celebrate its history, we hope that you also learned about yourself and soaked in the moment with your peers, bonding over common interests and your future endeavors. During your time at camp, you gained new friends, experienced life in college dorms, developed a greater appreciation for our state and its history and most importantly made lifelong memories.

It was truly a blessing to have met each of you and we hope you enjoyed it as much I and the other camp counselors did.

You are about to embark on a new adventure in life as you begin your days as high school students, setting the foundation for your future dreams. The one thing I hope each of you learned from your experience at the West Virginia Ambassador's Camp is ... YOU CAN DO ANYTHING!

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Randall".



Welcome to Ambassadors Camp 2018

UNIVERSITY OF CHARLESTON

During the week of June 18, students from across West Virginia gathered together in Charleston for the 2018 Ambassadors Camp. We all arrived at the University of Charleston for check-in Monday afternoon, where we experienced dorm living for the whole week. We also had a party that evening that was a lot of fun.

On Tuesday, we took tours of the State Capitol, State Archives and West Virginia State Museum. We then were broken into groups to take part in internships with a variety of state agencies.

Our group worked with the Department of Arts, Culture and His-

tory's communications staff to put together this newsletter. We went to observe as many internships as we could to see what the other ambassadors were learning about, though we did not have time to shadow them all.

First, we stopped by the *Golden-seal* office. We learned that this magazine shares memories and stories of everyday people. It has roughly 7,200 subscribers and about 9,000 copies are printed quarterly.

Next, we went to the State Historic Preservation Office, where we learned about preserving our state and its resources. We also learned that they help residents of West Virginia identify and preserve sites around the state and keep track of the state's listings in the National Register of Historic Places.

We then went over to the Secretary of State's office, where we learned that this is where the state seal and constitution are kept. We also learned that there are about 1.2 million registered voters in the state, but many could be taken off due to duplicates, which would make voter turnouts higher, therefore showing a more legit winner of an election.

Later that day, we learned about social media etiquette and managing money with the Get a Life! Program at the State Treasurer's Office.

Wednesday morning, we participated in Arts and Culture workshops, followed by a celebration of West Virginia's birthday in the afternoon, which included cake and a riverboat cruise. In the evening, we took part in a fun boot camp workout. It was one of the toughest things we did all week!

We all had different experiences this week, but it is clear everyone had fun and learned a lot. We can all agree Ambassadors Camp 2018 was an amazing experience and one we will never forget.



The Ambassadors GAZETTE

WRITERS

Amber Rigglesman, Hardy County
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Getting to Know Everyone





Getting the Party Started!



Greetings

from the
WEST VIRGINIA
STATE CAPITOL
COMPLEX



Inside the West Virginia Governor's Mansion and State Capitol





GETTING A FIRST HAND TOUR OF The Culture Center and the West Virginia State Museum



Governor's Deputy Chief of Staff Ann Urling spoke to campers about the responsibilities of the governor's office and answered questions about state government and how it works.



LEARNING ABOUT THE HISTORY OF OUR STATE State Archives



West Virginia
Archives & History



Media Specialist Paula Taylor from the governor's office, along with Ambassadors Camp counselor Bo Berry spoke to campers about the responsibilities of Social Media and what part they play.





Get A Life!

With the West Virginia State
Treasurer's Office



*How much money
did you have left?*





Instrumental Music with Tim James





Ambassadors learn the art to
writing Thank You Notes!



Happy 155TH Birthday West Virginia





To celebrate West Virginia Day the Ambassadors performed Oh These West Virginia Hills and Country Roads.



River Cruise and Clay Center Visit





WV AMBASSADORS BOOT CAMP

Campers participated in
Let's Get Physical!
on University of Charleston's
riverfront with fitness guru
Joshua Grant.



WE SURVIVED!

Last Day of Ambassadors Camp





And the award
for best interns
goes to.....

TEAM HONEY BEE

*Molly Kaltenbaugh, Garrett Keen
Shelby Landis and Hannah Reed*



See more camp photos at <http://wvculture.zenfolio.com>



West Virginia Ambassadors Camp 2018

