



Girls Inc. of Omaha 2017 Trip

Yellowstone National Park
Mount Rushmore
Crazy Horse Memorial
The Badlands
Grand Teton National Park
(and more!)

**girls
inc.**®

Pre-trip overnight

Girls arrived at 9 p.m. for a sleepover because the bus was leaving at ungodly early hour – 7 a.m. Girls arrived at 9 p.m. At 10:07 p.m., I overheard, “I may or may not have lost the key to my suitcase. And my flashlight.” – Ms. Roberta

Last night was pretty fun. We slept over at Girls Inc. Then the teachers woke us up at 4 in the morning with loud music. That was terrible because my group didn’t go to sleep ‘til like 1 or 2. What kinda sucks about this trip is that I don’t get to have my phone and I really don’t have that many friends either. But I guess that’s OK. I hope I’ll have fun later on. – Justyce



First day at Girls Inc. and I love dancing but I wasn’t dancing and I don’t know why. All the teens are nice and kind...When we were in the gym we played with the jump ropes and we played basketball, a game called knockout. – Tamia

At the North Center Girls Inc. it is an amazing day today. We are all partying and stuff. And how loud the speakers are and when you are in a room that echoes it is lit. Everyone here is lit, amazing, and that’s all I can describe because this place is so cool that I can’t describe it! – Fardowsa

Last night I could barely sleep. I was so ready for my last trip ever with Girls Inc. – Aariona

At 2:30 a.m. (with alarm clocks set for 4 a.m.) Ms. CT and I heard girls in the room next door talking to each other and sassing each other:

“Do you realize you need to be quiet?”

“Do you realize I don’t need to listen to you?”

“Do you realize you’re not the boss?”

Ms. CT called out to them, “Do you realize we can hear every word you are saying?”

giggles

As many trips as I’ve been on, there’s always a purpose to these trips. I graduated on May 21st and decided to go to college and study business and culinary. Going on these trips helps me explore in many ways. For example, how each state’s taxes work. Or how they cook their food to how their people interact. – Nicoletta

I think I am really going to have a good time on this trip. I’m so glad I get to go. I think I deserve it. Since I was a kid until now I really think I improved. Thanks to Ms. CT I am a better person than I what I used to be. When I go on this trip I plan to be respectful and follow directions the 1st time given. I don’t dislike any kid going on this trip. I’ve loved Girls Inc. since I was a kid. – Daliyah

With this being my second Girls Inc. trip that I have attended so far, I am happy. Personally, I feel that I have matured and that I am going to understand the things that I learn about because I am older. I enjoy associating with the girls from the South Center. I see they are friendly and nice once I got to know them. – Vonna

Day 1

"Life was made for good friends and great adventures." – Anonymous You're probably wondering what I'm doing on this trip. Well I don't know either. I was sleeping on Saturday night when I got the call that I could go on the trip. Mind you, this was 12pm – 1 am. I chose to go only because this was a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity and I wouldn't want to miss it for the world. I do feel bad for leaving my sister Hawa though because she did just have her baby. She's a big girl; she'll survive (sorry Hawa). Girls Inc. has been great to me. The girls on the trip are wonderful. Shout out to my roommates Kami, Jamia, and Leilani. They are all very amazing Strong, Smart, and Bold women. - Hinde

This morning I had a mini-panic attack and thought my mom wasn't going to say goodbye but she ended up coming and it was kinda sad leaving her for a whole week! I think if I had my phone with me the trip would be 10 times better. Sometimes I think it's good not to be distracted by your phone and to look at your surroundings. - Justyce

We had to wake up early in the morning. I knew that was going to be along ride. – Mariah

First day and we get up at 4. Ms. CT played loud music to wake all the girls up. – Asia

Today I woke up by the speakers blasting some music I knew wasn't from the 90's or 2000's. Ms. CT yelled, "OK, get up!" I pulled myself off the Fatboy in the library and got myself together to start my day. Excited by the road trip I had planned... I danced, skipped, and ran around the Girls Inc. building. After freshening up, I went to see if Ms. Fe needed help with breakfast. I poured juice and put meat on the plates. This is my 4th trip with Girls Inc. and the first time my grandma wasn't here in time for breakfast. Of course, I called and woke her up. I call her my best friend. What type of best friend would I be if I left without saying "see ya!" - Desy



I know I will miss my mom but like at Girls Inc., they say be "strong, smart, and bold" so that's what I'm going to be. Before she left my mom said "You can cry" and I said, "No. You can cry now." - Tamia

So, we just woke up and we are about to eat. See you on the bus! – Danajah

We woke up and got our stuff together. I boarded the bus but this time it was different for me. I usually sit in a seat alone and by myself or I usually sit around my sisters and family. But this time Desy came up to me and said "hey do you want to sit by me?" I mean I know me and Desy were close but not as close so when she asked me I was very happy. She made my day. Desy is a very good friend and never leaves anyone out. I love her so much and I know she is going to make me feel welcomed into each and every activity I do. She always pushes me no matter what the situation is. She says, come on, this is like a once in a lifetime thing!" So that's what motivates me. – Fatuma



As we pulled away from Girls Inc. in the bus:
 Girls: Can we watch a movie?
 Me: Let's wait 'til we are on the interstate [3 minutes away].
 3 minutes later:
 Girls: *sleeping*

- Ms. Roberta

It feels like a dream. On the inside, I'm doing a joyful scream. Every view is delightful. My window is a TV screen with a full HD view of the beautiful land of South Dakota. I get an up-close view of one of the most gracious part of the earth's face, while looking at each of these beautiful young women in theirs. - Somer



So far, I've had a really fun time. I liked the fruit we ate and I got some pictures in South Dakota with a beautiful view behind me. Also, the bus ride was pretty chill and we watched movies on the way so it made me forget about missing home. - Leilani



Today after lunch we saw an angel. Scratch that. It was a sculpture of a Native American woman. But, to be honest, she was so beautiful she could actually be an angel. She had a blanket around her with blue and purple decorating the inside. It was an absolutely astonishing site to see. Since behind the sculpture was a Lewis & Clark plaque, I assumed that the woman was actually Sacajawea. Either way, I am happy I got to witness such an outstanding piece of art. - Famo

While eating lunch, I noticed all of the different expressions on people's faces while learning about "Dignity" and where the beautiful piece came from. Some wore a mask of guilt because they accidentally snuck into a picture. Others wore one of awe and astonishment wondering how something that beautiful made by man hasn't been completely destroyed by nature. To be completely honest, I didn't really want to come on the trip because it sounded boring. But now seeing people's faces light up and seeing them smile at each other changed my mind. I didn't want to pass up this amazing opportunity. - Destiny

Native Angel. We all took amazing pictures. - Fardowsa

We just ate lunch and it was "fire the bomb." So, we are on the bus...We are in South Dakota. We went to a museum during lunch to use the bathroom and I saw Native American tipis, tobacco twists, and more tipis. - Danajah



Lunch was very good. Shout out to the staff that made lunch. It was very good and I enjoyed it. I sat with different girls other than just my sisters...Shout out to my table mates for making me feel comfortable. – Fatuma

It was very windy at lunch. It was a challenge to manage paper plates and napkins. Ms. Philice packed us an excellent lunch of chicken and hot sauce, grapes, strawberries, watermelon, pickles, and potato salad. - Ms. Roberta

After a while we pulled over to eat lunch. It was delish. We had chicken, strawberries, watermelon, pickles, and grapes. - Asia

We switched it up this year and had backed chicken instead of fried. It was actually pretty tasty. – Aariona

This is the first time I actually tasted potato salad. It was nasty. - Fardowsa

So today we traveled through South Dakota and it brought back so many good memories. When I was a kid (younger) my brother, my grandma, and I would travel here every summer to visit relatives. We used to go to pow wows...Since she passed away I haven't thought about times we had here until now. So I am very grateful to be here and I just can't wait to see more.... - VicTaijah

After lunch Ms. CT said, "you guys don't go to sleep, we'll be there in a few minutes." A few minutes became 2 hours. I just brought that up because I thought it was funny. - Fatuma

3:30 p.m.: We have just entered the Badlands. At first, I thought it was something actually "bad." The sight is amazing and the scenery remind me of ancient times. The texture looks like the moon sand. It has that soft look to it. It also reminds me of sand castle. - Vonna



We visited the Badlands. It was very interesting. I was glad we got to touch the mountains and climb. – Taylor

At the Badlands, it is breathtaking. – Asia

"Beware of Rattlesnake" signs. Hmmm... - Ms. Roberta

I have never seen something as breathtaking as the Badlands. The way you can see the different layers and tell the earth is old. - Destiny

The Badlands seemed similar to the Grand Canyon. – Nicoletta



I thought the Badlands would look like grass that was super dry and tumble weeds. Imagine my surprise when I looked out the window to see an upside down Grand Canyon. The landscape just really shocked me... The best part of the Badlands was when we got out and started climbing the land structures. It's always fun to see my sisters be strong & bold. They climbed so high and smiled so hard. - Desy

Today was a good day. Meeting the other girls and going to the Badlands was pretty cool. Climbing those mountains/rocks – even though it was slippery, it was fun. - Asnina

The rocks were so cool...The Rocks look like they have been standing here for a hundred years. They look very easy to break but people were walking on the rocks...It was cool that we got to climb on the rock. I was so scared to get down because I keep on sliding down the rocks. – Tamia

When I got a chance to climb the mountains it was a little difficult. And the exciting part was climbing with friends and taking pictures with friends. I am glad when I looked around I saw mostly everyone climbing and getting the same experience as me. – Ariyah

There were all kinds of rocks and some looked like pyramids. I thought they were nice but it was kind of scary. I've never been to South Dakota and I think it's beautiful. The rocks were crumbly. It was fun. We got to climb all the way to the top of them and we have been taking lots of pictures. – Daliyah

Driving through the Badlands, they looked like giant castles. They were so big and there were so many of them. The funny thing is they are all made out of sand or rocks. I also saw some deer climbing and the deer had a white nose with brown and black fur. That deer was very pretty. But in particular my favorite thing about the Badlands is that it's so big and spread out like it never ends. - Leilani

Today we went to the Badlands...and took some awesome pictures...we saw some animals along the way. - Kami

Many parts of the Badlands looked to be paintings but soon I saw that they were real. All the colors and terrain were remarkable. I will really remember that. – Caroline

The Badlands reminds me so much of the Grand Canyon.... I enjoyed how the girls used their knowledge from school and pointed out the different rocks. I enjoyed the Badlands – something worth remembering. - Fatuma

I just got done with the Badlands and it was really cool. All the cool rocks, I saw how they eroded and the different layers. – Justyce





Seeing the Badlands in person is definitely better than seeing the pictures. Now as we roll through the Badlands, I see that they are not so bad. – Asia

We saw bison and prairie dogs. They were so cute. - Hinde

Hearing that were going somewhere called the Badlands scared me because it doesn't sound too good but it was actually very beautiful...It looked like a sand castle that was falling down with some colors like red and orange. I wanted to climb all the way up but I had on sandals. So, I climbed up a good 10 ft. On the way back to the platform I slipped and banged up my knee pretty bad. - Aariona



It is so beautiful...to describe mountains: high, beautiful, masterpiece, creations. – Danajah

It was cool. All the mountains look like castles you can live in. I mean, I would. - Aniellia

We stopped at the Badlands. It is beautiful to look at. There were big huge mountains that were different colors like orange, brown, and a mixture of red/orange. There were areas we got out of the bus to take pictures and enjoy the view...It didn't matter what side you sat

on, both sides there were animals to see. The animals we saw were horses, bison, deer, and goats. - Jamia

The Badlands were very different. The unique patterns in the dirt were cool. There were pathways that we climbed. We took pictures on the dirt pyramids.... I liked being able to explore the pyramids by climbing to the top and looking at the view. We drove to different areas to see different angles of the view. ...Driving through the Badlands we saw goats. We also saw prairie dogs. – Ra’Quel

I am currently in the Badlands. The whole 16 years I have been alive I’ve never seen anything like it. Honestly, I’ve never even seen a mountain in person. The Badlands are actually so beautiful it looks fake. All I want to do now is touch the rocks. – VicTajah



This is the first time I ever saw the Badlands. I think it is BEAUTIFUL. All in caps. I mean the way it is...it’s amazing...I really want to see how the rocks feel. It must have been very hard for the natives. They had to walk through the Badlands BARE FEET. If I ever walk through the Badlands bare feet it will be nothing because in Kenya we will always walk on rock and it never hurt. – Fardowsa

Looking at the Badlands from the bus was cool, but actually being able to walk there and seeing my sisters climb was even more exciting. I was hesitant to get off the bus but I’m glad I did. Badlands was definitely a good experience and I would love to come back. - Vonna

We went to a place called Badlands. It was full of mountains. I was climbing most of them...- Mariah

Speechless. I was left absolutely speechless after witnessing the beautiful art pieces that nature has gifted us with. The Badlands were an exciting sight to see not only because of their astonishing appearance but because their ancestry fascinates me. While I had the adrenaline to climb the high mountains, I got to feel the fragile texture of them. They were fragile because it seemed that every time you would lay your hands upon the rocks, small pebbles would come apart from it. My hypothesis is that the mountains are made from small sediments layered together. But that’s just my guess. It was so thrilling to climb the Badlands. Especially when we had to climb down (which was hard by the way). From there we went to another side of the mountains. I’m pretty sure that someone spray painted the lines on them because I have never seen such a bright shade of red and yellow layered together like how it was there. I was struggling to figure out how that was possible before we had to leave so we could go to wall Drug...So far, the Badlands were the most beautiful source of nature seen on this trip. The other stops better update and beautify themselves. - Famo

As we get higher in altitude, my ears start to pop. - Vonna

We stopped at Wall Drug. It was huge and had a lot of cool things to buy. The food was great, too! - Desy

So, we are at the Wall Drug store and the food was amazing. – Danajah

Wall Drug is a mixture of restaurants and souvenir stores. Raquel, my partner, and I went shopping at the Wall Drug after we ate. – Jamia



Wall Drug reminded me of something that would be in Vegas. It seemed that I would see truckers or adult beverages. – Nicoletta

Ariyah is a person that's in love with photos so when we were going around we took lots of cool and funny photos. My favorite one was the one where we were huddling with glasses and hats on. That reminds me of my own family. So, for us to be close just gives me another reason to stick around longer. - Fatuma

I also enjoyed the Wall Drug, the food and the places. – Taylor

I got a cheeseburger, fries, and a Sprite. It was delicious! - Daliyah

Just finished Wall Drug. That place has a lot of country stores and also great food! - Justyce

I rushed to eat because I was so excited to go shopping when we left the restaurant. I got a dream catcher for my sister, a coffee mug with Mt. Rushmore on it, and a key chain that says South Dakota for my brother. Had an amazing time. – VicTaijah

I ate a Philly Steak and let's say it wasn't like Omaha's Philly Steak. Its meat was shredded, not sliced. Me and my friends almost missed the bus. – Asia

I had a blast at Wall Drug with Fatuma, Fatima, Kami, Hinde, and Ariyah. The food was good. And we went around the stores and took pictures and tried on things. We had a blast. At the end of the day, my roommates Hinde, Kami, and Jamia, are fun, chill and funny. They are great to be around. The ride here was great. I got to meet a lot of new people. My partner Hinde is nice. She doesn't complain about much. The hotel is nice and comfortable. It is a great opportunity being here because who knows when there's a next time. – Asnina

When we got into the hotel, the bathroom is beautiful with a glass shower and a long mirror. - Destiny



The swimming pool had a blue slide going into the water like Coco Keys. - Daliyah

I love Girls Inc. Now at the hotel. It is amazing. I'm hanging out with my BFF's 😊. Now swimming. – Danajah

When we got to the hotel, Destiny and I kept replying to Tanaijah with the same words and timing. That's when I realized these trips are so much more than a learning experience, but that it was a bonding experience that turns friends to sisters. We are truly a family. There's no labeling like "black," "white," "South," "North," ...and that's the best part. We are simply now by our names and "teens" or "younger girls." - Desy

All the girls went back to the hotel, unloaded the us, and found our rooms. We changed into our swim suits and went down stairs. I didn't stay downstairs long. After about an hour, I went upstairs to take a shower and get some snacks. Me and my partner went then came back. We made so many trips down because our other roommate kept leaving by herself so we followed so she wouldn't get in trouble for being alone. - Asia

I will love this trip forever. I don't even want to go back. It's so fun and it's day 1 and we have 10 days more coming and I can't wait. – Daliyah

This is the first trip I went on with North Girls Inc. And when I heard about the trip I thought it was only in Omaha but we are going everywhere, like we already went to South Dakota. South Dakota is an amazing place. If you ever go there, you will fall in love with it. Also, if you don't get to go to South Dakota, one day when you get older try to go. - Fardowsa

Day 2

I started my morning off with a knock to see if everyone in my room was awake. Everyone in my room had their clothes picked out the night before so we were all ready for breakfast and the day. - Ariyah

Our alarm wasn't loud enough so we woke up at a later time. At breakfast, they ran out of waffle batter, so Mariah gave me half of her waffle. – Taylor

For breakfast, I had a waffle and sausages. It was so good. – Ahshay

This morning for breakfast I ate Frosted Flakes and biscuits with gravy. It kept me full until lunch. - Desy

My roommates and I woke up on time and read for what today brings. The thing I like is we all got along. We had everything planned out and were on schedule. - Vonna

Driving to Mount Rushmore was beautiful. Being surrounded by nature on a bus surrounded by not only friends who I have learned to love but by family I have learned to trust. From laughing about random things throughout the night to riding an insane death trap with nothing but a breaking bar and an instinct to save your life. - Destiny



Today is my birthday! I woke up with the yell of my friend Taylor. We packed our bags to be helpful to the maids. We went downstairs to eat breakfast that the hotel made. We got on the bus and headed to Mt. Rushmore...Now I am going to say Mt. Rushmore was beautiful. But when you look at it, it really annoys me that they only thought about MEN! We have powerful women, too...No one sees how powerful women are. Harriet Tubman, Michelle Obama, Rosa Parks, Maya Angelou. All of the beautiful black women are in inspiration to me. – Jada

The weather is pretty chilly. I love the way it feels and I'm happy the skies are clear. - Desy

Gutzon Borglum. That's the person that started all this.

We saw Mt. Rushmore which was the prettiest thing I've seen all day. – Kami



The view was amazing. I took so many pictures. - Ariyah

We went to see Mt. Rushmore. That was a great sight to see. - Mariah

We took lots of pictures and found lots of history. - Asia

We first stopped at Mt. Rushmore where there were heads of 4 presidents: G. Washington, T. Jefferson, A. Lincoln, and T. Roosevelt are carved on Mt.

Rushmore. We went to watch a movie about the guy who built it. His name was Gutzon Borglum. - Jamia

The museum was nice, learning that 75 men came in the morning just to help build or work on the faces of George Washington, Abraham Lincoln, Theodore Roosevelt, and Thomas Jefferson. - Asnina

I think they spent more work on Washington than on any of them. - Daliyah

Mount Rushmore (what a rush!)....I wonder what it feels like to have such a passion for an idea and see it brought to life by your own hands with the help of others...I think Mt. Rushmore is significant, not because of the faces on it but because of the faces and work behind it. - Somer

At first when I heard we were going to Mt. Rushmore I was like, OK, cool. But once I got closer I...I was like, I can't believe I am actually doing this. The museums were beautiful. - Fatuma

Today we went to see our Founding Fathers on Mt. Rushmore. The view was amazing. We got to take some amazing photos. I even got to see my other father Abe; Abraham Lincoln. He's my favorite, of course. - Hinde

It was like I could touch the faces. - Justyce

Upon arrival, I expected to see the faces of our courageous former presidents to be gigantic and right in our faces but they were a little farther in the distance making it hard to see the fine detail in the art piece. - Destiny

Seeing Mount Rushmore on TV is cool but actually getting to witness it for myself is fantastic. - Vonna

A cool fact I learned is that Lincoln's mole is 16 inches around. - Aariona

Mt. Rushmore is a very beautiful sculpture...watching the movie about Mt. Rushmore made me think about all the hard work it took to build such a beautiful monument. – Leilani



We watched a shorter version of the Mt. Rushmore movie we watched on the bus. - VicTaijah

So, we're just driving to the next place. This South girl let me sit with her. She is so nice. Here are some things to describe her: honest and fair; friendly and helpful; courageous and strong. And 3 words: Strong, Smart, and Bold. – Danajah

We got started by going to Mount Rushmore. It looked so much better in real life. I couldn't believe I was really seeing Mount Rushmore. I had to think for a minute. I was really shocked how they could carve the faces in the rock. It must have taken a lot of hard work...The carving was really fine. We learned some fun facts about the mountain and we watched a movie in the theater. – Taylor

We saw how Mount Rushmore was constructed and the efforts that it took. – Caroline

After we came from Mt. Rushmore, we went to Crazy Horse Memorial. Crazy Horse was a Native American leader, known for his leadership. He has his face carved in a mountain and it is still getting worked on 'til this day. We also ate at Laughing Water restaurant. I got a taco salad. It was good. – Jada

Wow! Is how I'm going to explain today's journey. Seeing new sculpture being made in the mountains is inspiring. It may not inspire me to do something that high and dangerous but to come out of my comfort zone and do things outrageous. To leave a mark somewhere and be known for it. – Ra'Quel

We just ate lunch and it was really nice but in the middle my burger and Ms. Bev's burger was not cooked OK. – Danajah

We ate at the Laughing Water Restaurant. It was good even though I got sick from it later because I ate too fast. – Asia

I ordered the Native American Taco and ate it up! Every single bite was delicious... - Somer

After lunch, we headed down to the bus so we could get a tour from a tour guide. He told us lots of facts. Like, Crazy Horse is big enough that all four heads of Mt. Rushmore can fit on his head. They have been working on Crazy Horse since the mid or late 1940's (that was when they made the first blow on the mountains). Also, he told us the statue won't be done until I have grandkids...Maybe in 50 years? He showed us where the man that started building the statue used to live...The man had 10 kids. They all live a couple of miles away from the statue (maybe 6). They are also building a college and a medical center...A couple of the Korczak kids are contractors...and build their father's statue. Even some of the Korczak grandkids are becoming engineers or contract workers to assist. – VicTaijah

This statue was started 69 years ago and the people only have the head done. But the tourist guide said the people only had one guy with a tool, hammering the rock to put a dynamite in the rocks. Another interesting thing is that Korczak was buried right next to his statue. We also got to collect some cool rocks from the statue. - Justyce

The tour guide said he doesn't know when it will be finished. – Asia





One reason it is taking forever is because the rock is harder than the rocket they carved Mount Rushmore out of...The sculptor named Korczak...made his own tools and named them too long, too short, and just right. Just in the past two weeks they finished the pointing finger which is a big accomplishment. - Destiny

When we were at the Crazy Horse monument, I saw a quote that said, "My fellow chiefs and I would like the white men to know, the red men had great heroes, too." - Henry Standing Bear another thing that touched my heart was the saying behind Crazy Horse pointing on his horse, "My land is where my dead lie." I just thought it was sad. I can't imagine the things the Natives go through. Having their culture stolen, manipulated, barely recognized, and disrespected. No one should have to fight so hard to have their culture stay alive. I love and support the idea of Crazy Horse's monument. - Desy

It might take 50 years to finish. Sorry Ms. CT and Ms. Roberta. Don't worry, I'll tell you all about it when I see you in heaven (but

who knows, you might outlive us all). - Nicoletta

I'm pretty sure the finishing touches will be amazing and draw in tourists from around the world. - Somer

Our next stop, we are going to an 1880 train station. I really enjoyed that ride because it was my first time riding a train. - Taylor

The train was good. I saw deer. The mountains were nice and the grasslands were very beautiful. - Asnina

It was very fun. I don't think I had ever been on a train. We were on there for a long time and ended up in a different city. - Daliyah



That was my first train ride ever and I would love to ride again. - Vonna

The train engineer was a female. I think that's pretty cool that she joined the STEM program and chose engineering. Her name is Kristen. Shout out to her. I'm really proud. - Hinde

So we were on this train and it was really cold...It was long. I it but overall it was pretty fun. I just did not have a lot of patience. - Danajah

I've never ridden on a train before, but I found it relaxing and soothing. Like all

my troubles and worries were washed away! Not everyone can have that opportunity to be at a complete state of wholeness and I am happy to get that opportunity. - Somer

I really enjoyed the view on the train and the seats. The whole trip was comfortable and relaxing. Plus seeing the mountains up close is pretty amazing. - Leilani

We went on a train ride on the 1800 train. It took us on a tour through the land and told how South Dakota boomed when gold was found. They told us how the towns were formed mostly of miners and other people just trying to get rich quick. - Caroline

Then we went to an amusement park called Rushmore Cave. I really liked the zipline ride and how it was so high up. The next ride we went to was the 7D Gunslinger and both interactive movies I went on were frightening. Then came the roller coaster. I was excited to go on it. Then we got stuck because someone didn't follow the given directions. I'm super upset but I'll get over it. – Caroline

The roller coaster was very fun until we got stuck at the top. Although that happened, I had an amazing time with everyone. Everyone on this trip makes it great because they make me laugh and offer me a helping hand when I need it. – Ra'Quel

We got to zipline but Danajah and I got scared and got back off the zipline. So then we went to this thing when you are supposed to put on 3D glasses and shoot zombies. I was in 5th place out of 10 so I was at least grateful to be on the scoreboard. – Tamia

So the Rushmore Cave Amusement Park was incredible. - Hinde

The most fun I had was at the Adventure Park. We went ziplining and played zombie games. Thanks to Ms. Roberta – she let me go with the other kids that got to go again. – Aniellia

When I first got off the bus I was thinking, no, I don't want to do anything. But once again, Desy motivated me. She didn't take no for an answer. I really enjoyed the zipline. It's not as bad as it seems. The zombie game was very epic. I enjoyed it even though I got scared. The craziest thing today was riding the roller coaster. I didn't even want to go on it but I went on it. It was the time of my life until we got stuck. I was so mad...I'm glad I got off safely. Anyway, today went great. Can't complain. - Fatuma

The amusement park was fun even though I was scared to sip line or get on the roller coaster. I still did it because who knows when it will happen again. Even though we had trouble on the roller coaster, I still had fun. I mostly had my eyes closed screaming for dear life and holding on to the ride. - Asnina

Now we are on our way ziplining. Please Ms. CT, Don't Do It. – Danajah

We went to the 7D ride and it was out of this world. We went on the Godzilla one and I sat right up front. I even got 2nd place. - Aariona

I got to go ziplining which was really fun. – Justyce

We went ziplining. It was really fun. My friend Shay and I went together. We were being funny and screaming on purpose. – Daliyah

Ziplining, my stomach dropped as soon as the gate opened but as I went down I felt free and as if I was soaring! - Somer

We headed to Rush Mt. where they had a zipline, a coaster, a concession stand, and a 3D zombie movie...and my wonderful friend Destiny was screaming in my ear. I thought I was losing my hearing on the zipline. I also went with Destiny and actually think I broke a couple of bones in her hand. But the ride was fun after all. – VicTaijah

At the amusement park, I was really scared to do the rides but once I got on them and faced my fears, I don't regret riding them. -Leilani

So today we were on a roller coaster. So, we were riding and having a good time but then when it came to the hill all of our rides stopped. We were all mad. It was like when your own car gets out of gas and you stop in the middle of the highway. And I hate it when that happens. And that's how I felt when I got stuck. – Fardowsa

The 7D attraction was amazing. I actually felt like I was part of the game. – Vonna

How many people can say, hey, I got stuck on a roller coaster? But I still had a fun time. - Ariyah

Out of everything we did today going to the amusement park was the most fun source of entertainment I had. I mean, I barely even remember going to Mt. Rushmore. Although I have learned much from the movies, pamphlets, and guides it wasn't exactly as thrilling as going down the zipline at an exhilarating rate. – Famo

The roller coaster was exhilarating! I was stuck on the steep hill for a moment but when I gained all control I felt free and enjoyed every twist, turn, and drop. - Somer

We went back to the room and got turned up and watched a movie. - Asia

Day 3

Yawn. It's another morning with my girlfriends. Of course, we pack our bags and brush our teeth. And then we head downstairs to eat the good hotel breakfast. After this we got our heavy bags and loaded the bus. – Jada

Me and my roommates woke up late and had been woken up by the younger girls by the way thanks for being so responsible and behaving last night after Ms. CT and the other staff yelled at us. - Asia

I woke up this morning and started a new day. I don't like to keep in the past because it's just causing drama so I just forgot what even happened last night. – Daliyah

We woke up in the morning like usual. We made sure our rooms were spotless before we left. We went downstairs. Since I had a waffle yesterday, I let other people who didn't get one, get one. I just got a muffin instead. - Mariah

Today I woke up at 6:30 a.m. and I was ready to get my morning started. I went to breakfast at 7:02 and grabbed a waffle and some sausage. – Taylor

The first thing I had to do this morning was wake everybody else up then get my stuff situated in my suitcase which was pretty hard because I have a lot of stuff...I'm forgetting the part about the room checks. The rooms for the most part, were very good. Most of the girls actually made the beds but the one room was a little bit of a

mess. After breakfast, we headed back to our rooms to get our suitcases then we loaded the bus. Ms. CT gave us a speech...Ms. Roberta read us a couple of chapters out of her book that were about the hot...lakes in Wyoming Yellowstone Park. There was a story about a man that jumped in some really hot water to save his dog and he had 2nd and 3rd degree burns on 100% of his body, including his face. After those stories she allowed some of us to read out of her book. - VicTaijah

So, good morning. We just ate. Now we are on the bus. – Danajah

As Ms. Roberta stated, the tip and the stuff we do is important but the bus ride is important, too. - Vonna

We started our day on the road and heading to the city of Cody. – Taylor



Today is a long ride. We saw a lot of land but it is nice because nature is beautiful and it's nice to see the beautiful mountain views. It was nice being in the mountains but it was also scary because we just kept getting higher and higher, making my ears pop several times. Being super high up in the air and looking down was crazy - all the snow on the mountain. – Asnina

The mountains were beautiful. – Fatuma

The view was absolutely breathtaking. We couldn't stand up for fear of tipping the bus. - Destiny

I collected a map of Wyoming at the rest stop where we ate lunch. I tried to follow along where we were every time I a sign was seen! - Somer

"To live is to travel." – HC. Andersen Today all we did was travel to Wyoming. We took breaks/stops and that's usually my favorite part because I get to know the girls a little bit more. We also go to get pictures taken by the photographer, Ms. Roberta. She got some amazing pics of me...obviously because I am a great model. - Hinde

Ms. Roberta spoke to us about behavior at Yellowstone. Because you can die if you don't follow directions. - Jada

I was happy Ms. Roberta gave us a heads up about Yellowstone National Park and how we need to be safe. Thank you, Ms. Roberta, for keeping us safe and thinking of us. – Taylor

We talked about Yellowstone and how you can die if you don't follow directions. I plan on following directions this whole time on this trip. - Daliyah

Today we got on the bus and started driving through Wyoming. We left Rapid City and started to Yellowstone. As we continued the land began to change; the brick buildings became tall, grassy hills. There were few homes out here and most of them looked to be farms. It would be quiet and peaceful without a ton of cars and pollution. As we continued, we headed to the Buffalo Bill Museum and saw all the things that existed when settlers first arrived and what a struggle they had (truthfully, I probably wouldn't have made it). I thought life was pretty hard out there. Overall today was fun. – Caroline

It was totes fun hanging out with the teens and all. But I've got to say I saw some pretty cool things like buffaloes... - Kami

We learned this morning that you shouldn't play around in Yellowstone because you could die. - Justyce

Just let me tell you how beautiful this view is. This is my very first time driving around or in mountains. – VicTajjah

I also noticed the higher in altitude we are, the colder it is. – Mariah

As we got higher in the mountains you could see snow and it started raining. I learned in school that with higher altitudes the weather changes but to watch it happen in front of me was cool. - Ariyah

As we climbed the mountain my ears were popping like fireworks. At one point while we were driving through the mountain we were up over 8000 ft.! - Desy

To get to the Buffalo Bill Center we had to travel through these big old mountains. It was snowy and rainy because of the height we were at. It took a long time to get to where we needed to be but it's OK. I'm glad we didn't rush. Thanks to the bus driver for helping Girls Inc. staff and girls make it safely. - Jamia

We finally made it to the Buffalo Bill Museum. Me and my friends – Taylor, Justyce, and Mariah – are learning a lot. – Jada

This year was the 100th year anniversary of the museum being open. - Destiny

Me and my buddy Desy went to all the exhibits. The Native culture is so beautiful and interesting. There's lots to learn about. But one thing that stood out was the clothing....I love their culture...I think there is a lot left for me to know. - Fatuma

The museum was nice even though I got scared when I went upstairs with Hinde. It was nice learning more about Native Americans (Indians). - Asnina

After all the driving, I forgot we were visiting a museum today. Every artifact display was educational and held my attention. I have tons of photos from today and I can't wait to share them with my family! I have to admit, I'm a little homesick. Every time I turn on the camera I end up looking at the photos of them and picturing if they were here with me. There truly is no place like home no matter where you go! - Somer

The Buffalo Bill Center of the West was amazing. The second I walked through the door, I said, "Cool!" and "Wow, look at that!" - Asia

We went to Buffalo Bill's Museum. It was really cool because you got to learn about his life style and what he did for Cody. We also saw some Native American Artifacts and watched documentaries. We also saw Buffalo Bill's stuff that they used back in the day. Me, Jada, Mariah, and Justyce played an Indian game and we had lots of fun. – Taylor

I really liked the Buffalo Bill Center that we just left...I liked that museum. It was fun. - Daliyah

We saw a lot of tipis. There was one you can go in. We saw a buffalo video. It was a buffalo being eaten by a wolf. It was sad. Another sad one was when a bear ate a baby buffalo. - Ahshay

We went to the Buffalo Bill Center and we saw some very cool things. We go to see houses that Natives lived in. We saw the dishes, chairs, and beds they used. The way they lived was so much different from how we live now. We also got to explore the clothes that [Natives] wore. [They] wore animal fur and they made different and cool patterns on them. We watched a video about unique Native dances. I loved all of the beautiful colors they wore while dancing. Native culture is beautiful. – Ra'Quel

There were good looking sculptures, and paintings and hands on things. I learned a lot off of the videos they played in the different areas. – Jamia

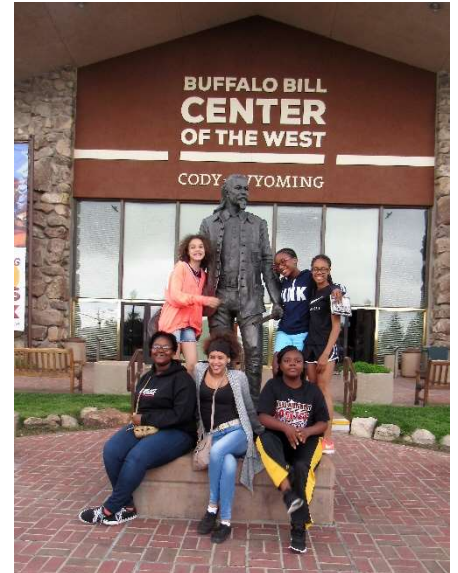
Waking up and realizing that you're driving on a mountain was different. I could hear Ms. CT say, "Roberta are you looking out this window?" and she replied, "Yes. It's making me sick." I just giggled. – Nicoletta

I enjoyed the museum today. – VicTaijah

Even though today was mostly traveling I still got to see a lot of cool things that I will never forget! – Leilani

I decided to start a rock collection. - Desy

We finally got to Cody to our hotel. "I feel like they keep getting smaller," said one of the girls. But I didn't care because as long as I get to have sleepovers with my sisters then I'm fine right where I'm at. "Not all who wander are lost." – J.R.R. Tolkein



We went to dinner. I sat with Somer, Ty'asia, Danajah, and Tamia. While we were with them I realized that they were normal and just like us teens – looking for acceptance and a good laugh - Destiny

So, we are about to swim. We just came from dinner. It was delicious. See you tomorrow. – Danajah



At this particular hotel, each room (maybe each bed?) had a stuffed bear that you could purchase for \$25. I had one of the girls round up all the bears and bring them to my room. I could just imagine extra bear charges on our hotel tab... - Ms. Roberta

Day 4

This is probably the best day ever! We are going to YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK! This may be a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for me. So, at moments like this, you have to cherish them and be grateful that you can go do something so amazing. – Jada

Waking up is only half the battle. The rest is staying awake. – Asia

I saw lots of scenery and beautiful nature today. I can't explain how many plants and types of trees I saw today. I tried my best to stay up and see everything I could see. I saw snow, geysers, hot springs, bison, plants, and trees all in one. I'm glad I got to see such a thing. – Fatuma

As I was beginning to sort of doze off, staring at the magnificent view, I overheard Ms. Roberta tell some girls to put their electronics away. I was surprised to hear this because I could look at this view forever...But I heard her say, "This is the only place in the world that has this" and I kept repeating that in my head because it is very true! Yellowstone is very unique. There is no tree, animal, bird, rock, pebbles, waterfall, snowflake, mud pot, hot spring, fumarole, fish, river or lake that is the same. They are alike and very similar but not the same. They come together to make up a unique national park with its settings changing in the blink of an eye!....I truly love Yellowstone now. It turned me on the buffalo. It's now my favorite animal after the quokka. - Somer

While coming here, we went up to 8,400 feet and some of the food even had more air than usual. That reminded me of the Eureka! balloon, when we put stuff in it to see what would happen when it got higher up. – Hinde

It was interesting to see how the snack bags on the bus puffed up as the air pressure decreased in the mountains. Bags that were essentially flat puffed up like little inflatables. – Ms. Roberta

So today is an exciting day. Today is Yellowstone! – Danajah

I've been waiting every day for this today! We're going to Yellowstone for 2 days and I'm so excited for it. - Justyce

My alarm clock went off at 6:20 a.m. and I began my day at 6:30 because I wanted to sleep an extra 10 minutes. - Taylor

We just went through a tunnel through a mountain. It was really cool. I have never been in a tunnel! – Danajah

Beautiful waterfalls coming down the sides of the mountains as we drive. – Ms. Roberta

When we first ride into the park, we see mountains on top of mountains on top of mountains. They stood up tall looking over the land in between. After coming through the mountains, we came to Yellowstone Lake...– Jada



Yellowstone was in the mountains and when we arrived the first thing we saw was snow...The first place we went was Yellowstone Lake...The water was ice cold – felt like an ice bath. We took a lot of pictures. - Taylor

We see our first wildlife a few yards past the entrance of the Park: two magnificent big horn sheep. – Ms. Roberta

Passing by the glaciers and hot springs was so awesome, seeing the smoke all up in the air and the animals like rams, elk, deer, and buffalo (bison). Seeing them up close was wonderful. Watching the buffalo cross the road was amazing. I got to see a blackbird and a really cute chipmunk very close. It is so amazing. A once-in-a-lifetime thing. – Asnina



Before entering Yellowstone, I didn't realize how dangerous it was until we read the Thinks Safety; Act Safely poster. - Ariyah



Today we went to Yellowstone National Park. The first animal we saw were bison. These large animals walked and ate grass. They were a mix of light and dark brown with longish horns. They looked as if they were slow, lazy animals, but actually they are peaceful and dangerous if you get too close. As we continued through Yellowstone we observed the trees that has been burned by forest fires and the ones that took their place. Then we went to the geysers and saw how hot they were. I could feel the steam rising off of them. It felt like a sauna even from where we were standing. The water in the geysers was beautiful and the blue and white colors in the water looked good enough to drink but it would burn my tongue off. Overall, Yellowstone was amazing and all the wild life was incredible. – Caroline

The museum we went to was very interesting even though I got light headed. It was very interesting to see the sculpture or the diagram of the land. - Fatuma

Today we went to Yellowstone National Park Visitor Center. The store with the animals was very interesting. I learned a lot...The birds were pretty. My favorite was the Muslim bird called Common Night Hawk. I call it the Muslim bird because it's most active before sunrise and after sunset; so, it's basically fasting. - Hinde

We learned the names of the lakes. – Tamia

I learned that Yellowstone was originally named The National Park because it was the 1st national park. - Desy

I was actually shocked at how big the park was. It definitely caught me by surprise...It amazes me how other people visiting are happy and interested to know we are from Nebraska. They all seem so happy to see us. - Vonna

There are bears here also but I don't want to see them because they're scary. - Daliyah

Yellowstone is very beautiful and it is humungous...We even got to stop at a lake and take photos. The view was very beautiful and I could see the snow-covered mountains behind the lake which made the view even more beautiful. My friends and I even skipped rocks into the lake. I overheard Ms. Roberta talking about the wildlife and how they are endangered. One day I would like to come back to Yellowstone where the animals aren't endangered because we need animals in the wild. – Leilani

"The view today was beautiful and so were the mountains. And the girls," said Ms. Roberta - Hinde

We played on the beach and skipped rocks and watched the tide wash up into the sand and rinse it away. It was gorgeous. - Asia



We saw a whole bunch of bison. They were missing some hair on their backs. There were even baby bison. They were so pretty and light brown like the color of my book bag. Shortly after we saw that little herd, this one bison that we thought was just crossing our street but he was playing with us and he walked literally down the road but like Ms. Roberta said, "We're the intruders because we are in their territory." – VicTaijah

We've already seen buffalo and I guess there might be bears here. – Justyce

We went to watch a video about Yellowstone Park. Interesting fact is the whole park is basically a volcano. – Jamia

I also liked the other videos about how close you shouldn't be by the bears and buffalos. Maybe getting flipped up on a tree. "giggles" - Aniellia

Yellowstone has a volcano and that sounds crazy to me. The movie taught us how some animals in the park can be dangerous. – Ahshay

After our journey to the Canyon Education Center we watched a movie about the Yellowstone Park rules and safety. They also talked about the history of the park. I enjoyed the movie and remembered some things encountering a bear but I lost the card with the correct information. – Asia

I learned that fire is important to this ecosystem. - Desy

What happens with geysers is water starts to bubble then spray up. The water is very powerful. There are also hot springs...There was steam coming from the water. If you fall or go into the water you can get 3rd degree burns or die. There are also wild animals like bison, deer, wolves, and bears. They all attack people if you mess with them. In school, my social studies teacher told me about this park. She didn't explain it so well because this is not what I expected. I thought it was like a park with grass and a playground. - Mariah



Today was a day of learning for me. We watched a documentary about the land of Yellowstone. I learned that fires are good for the forests. There are pine cones that are glued shut that the fire cracks open. There are seeds inside that grow new trees. I thought that this was an interesting fact. I also learned about the different geysers. We went to see them in person. All the geysers had their own unique colors which were beautiful. Some were baby blue, orange, or clear. Did you know there are about one thousand different geysers? Well there are and I was amazed. The only bad thing is they smelled like eggs. – Ra'Quel

We watched a video about Yellowstone history and rules. What I learned from that was here in Wyoming there's an active volcano and that if it erupts people living somewhere else wouldn't be able to see because the sky would be black. And people living in Wyoming wouldn't make it. - Ariyah

Did you know that Yellowstone N.P is the biggest national park? – Hinde

I saw my first Raven. I never knew the bird was so big. - Desy

We...went to see a short movie about the volcano. The volcano covers the whole park and can cause damage. I learned that the ash fall can even land in Nebraska. – Taylor

We went on a 1.6-mile walk. It was fun and a good exercise. I didn't endorse walking that far but I did enjoy seeing all the different geysers. I remember two names: Pearl Geyser and Fearless Geyser...We finished at 3:02 and waited like 30 for you guys but that's OK you're a bit older. You have an excuse to be late and/or take your time. After we arrived, others did too and that's around the time Ms. Sheebie arrived with the camera and showed us the picture of you and Ms. CT resting and that's when she busted out Ms. CT about touching the water. – VicTaijah

It was amazing when we went inside the forest. There were burnt trees and when you look up there were tall trees. - Daliyah



We just got done walking 1.6 miles to see geysers. That took a long time but they were actually really cool! All the different colors of the water!! The experience was amazing and I would love to come back but not walk that long!!! – Justyce



Today I stepped out of my comfort zone and let Ms. Sheebie con me into walking a trail that felt forever long. Although I really didn't have a choice. At the end of the trail I could hear Ms. CT say, "Oh Lord, that was rough." – Nicoletta

The walk was tiring but it was amazing. To be honest, I really wanted to touch the water but I had to listen to the rules. The walk was very tiring but I'm proud of myself that I finished the walk. I got some exercise and I'm proud of that. Successful day!! – Fatuma

The geysers were beautiful but had a deadly feeling to them. I understand that one little slip could potentially end my life or hurt me really bad. I kept a safe distance from the beautiful disasters. The walk was HORRIBLE!!! I mean, it would have been perfect but I was having a bit of back issues. I was really hoping to encounter a bear or a wolf. I was sort of disappointed when I didn't see one but I'm kind of glad because I would have had a panic attack and fainted. -Destiny



When we were shopping for lunch, a ranger came and expressed how she truly loves Girls Inc. I'm glad to be part of an organization that's known for great things. I love the challenge of owning and raising the bar for future Girls Inc. sisters to take head on. - Desy

After lunch, we went on a tiring trail. I will be the first one to say trails are not my cup of tea – they're more like vinegar. But I went on it and even though I didn't enjoy the walking I really did absolutely enjoy the views I got. – Aariona

I'm glad that I stepped out of my comfort zone and walked the long trail to look at geysers. It's always good to try new things because you'll never know if you like it or not. Seeing the buffalo cross the street was very cool. - Vonna

Ms. Sheebie said that the loop around the geysers and pools was only 1.6 miles long. That was the understatement of the year. It felt like we walked 5 miles to look at those geysers. The teachers weren't even ahead of us and it was their idea to do the walk. Even though they were behind, they still weren't near the amount of exhaustion we had. How!? Ms. Roberta walked out of there like we just walked 10 ft. while Ms. CT was still hyped and was already to do the next activity. They must always exercise because that was not normal to just not be winded after that walk. Do you want to know what's even worse? There was a shortcut we could have taken to make the long walk into a small jog. Can you believe it? So now our superhero teachers made us walk the extra mile. I'm still not tired, though. Everybody was acting like zombies saying, "water! Water!" or acting like they will drop dead if they moved another inch. It was hilarious! That was a good thing about going to Yellowstone. The other good thing about it was after we were leaving the bus made a wrong turn and I had an hour to finish 2 of my books and for Ms. Roberta to offer me a chance to download a few books off her Amazon account. Now I have 8 books to read while we are driving to our next stop. I will be as engrossed in that book as a lion watching its prey. I am way too addicted to books. Maybe because my reality is so boring that I have to read about others for satisfaction in life. I mean, at least someone is happy. I saw a few romance books in the batch Ms. Roberta let me look through. One of them was **Eleanor & Park**. This book has either been following me or this is just fate. I'm going to have to read that first because of all the books I got it seems the most interesting. I know they say don't judge a book by its cover but that's exactly what I do. I need a new strategy because I am running out of books. I just want to thank Ms. Roberta (the beauty) for blessing me with these books. - Famo



We just went to the boardwalk. Ms. CT and Ms. Roberta made it. – Danajah

I was so tired and I never stopped. I just kept going and I made it. That's why I didn't complain. Even though we were all extremely tired and exhausted. – Daliyah

Some facts I learned: 1) Steamboat Geyser is the world's tallest active geyser. Last major eruption was September 3, 2014. 2) Cistern Springs brown, orange, and green colors represent species of visible algae and bacteria. 3) *Thermus aquaticus* found in some of the Park's hot water runoff channels produces an enzyme used in fingerprinting and testing for the virus that causes AIDS. - Ariyah



I was overwhelmed by the overpowering boiled egg smell. It was coming from the geysers which were incredible shades of blue! I was shocked that something so pretty can smell so bad. - Desy

We just got done walking the trail and even though I am upset that I didn't know about the short cut, I'm still happy I did the whole thing. My favorite geyser was the Pearl Geyser. It was super pretty. I think we took the 1.6 mile walk and it wasn't all that bad for me because I'm used to taking long walks. I probably walked 3 miles before from my sister's house to mine. I'm actually glad we took that walk because "in the end we only regret

the chances we didn't take." And I'm not talking about regretting the walk but regretting not seeing the geysers...I really appreciate that all the girls did the walk and got to experience the geysers and then complained at the end. – Hinde

I like the whole idea of national parks and what they stand for: "Experience today, preserve forever." I saw this quote a lot today. I want generations after me to be able to experience things like this. - Desy

The geysers were many sizes and colors. – Taylor



I loved the hot springs. They were the prettiest blues and greens. It smelled like boiled eggs, perm, and trash because of the steam. It was a lot of walking.... My group saw bear tracks. - Asia

Today we hiked through Yellowstone and saw some pretty steam explosions. - Leilani

We saw bubble mud water...And we saw smoke coming out of the water. And the smoke did not smell that well at all. - Ahshay

The blue geysers I liked the most but I don't know why. - Tamia

The geysers were steaming hot and stinky with a lot of smoke coming out. I could barely breathe. But aside from that they were pretty cool and colorful. – Jamia

That trail walk was really something. It got to the point that even the geyser's water looked refreshing. My lips were so dry and my throat was crying for water. - Desy

We saw a whole herd of buffalo and it was amazing...We have to stay 100 yards away from bears and wolves. - Kami

We went to go see geysers. SHOUT OUT TO MS. CT for being risky and touching the water. And also you and Ms. Roberta inspire me to keep pushing through the pain. You guys were both hurt and you still pushed. This not only makes you stronger, it makes me stronger. – Jada

On the Yellowstone warning sheet, it basically said, once you're here, you're on your own. Like wow! I was hoping to see a grizzly or black bear. These are the only bears native to the park. I also want to see a wolf! - Desy



We got on the bus and rode to the hotel. We got stuck in traffic for 30 minutes. When we finally got there, we found that we couldn't swim and it bummed everybody out but we got over it. There will be other pools. But then we got the news that we can eat McDonalds and spilled ice cream in the carpet (sorry Ms. CT for that). – Asia

No swimming. There was a Caddyshack accident in the pool before we got there. – Ms. Roberta

Day 5

I got a call last night about one of the rooms partying too hard and too loud... - Ms. Roberta

This morning I honestly didn't feel like getting up but I managed and was on time to breakfast. The eggs were super good. - Ariya

It's another day at Yellowstone National Park! – Jada

One fact I heard today was that if you honk at the buffalo you have to pay thousands of dollars for disturbing their peace. – Jamia

On the way through the Park I saw bison in the road. They were walking down the street like we didn't have anywhere to go but we did. We were headed to Old Faithful. - Asia

As soon as we started into the Park, a small herd of bison blocked the road. We had to be patient as they lumbered from side to side on the road. When we got to our first destination we had to be patient and wait for the geyser to erupt. It was worth it. When it erupted, it shot up into the air. Then we took a hike. We saw the smaller geysers and they were all different colors and sizes and they were all steaming hot. – Caroline

I am glad the days have been starting good. It was nice going to the museum. I learned that in the past as the Rocky Mountains got taller/bigger it made magma/lava come up from under the mountain and that's how there was an eruption and half of the mountain range was gone. I also learned that a bison is quicker than an Olympic racer. That's why it's better to stay away from them. It's really nice to learn about these things...Seeing the geysers was amazing, very nice seeing it blow up water in the air and just knowing what happens under the ground to make everything happen. - Asnina

We went to Old Faithful, the best geyser in the world. It was a great experience for me and I can't wait to tell people about what I did and what I saw. – Taylor



The Old Faithful geyser was pretty cool. It took a long time to erupt but it was worth the wait. – Fatuma

Old Faithful is so beautiful that if it wasn't hot I would want to feel the mist of water. I'm so glad I'm here to experience this. I know lots of people my age aren't as privileged as me. Just reflecting on everything I have seen so far lets me know I am blessed. – Ariyah

It shot so hard into the air that you can hear it crashing like waves. – Desy

I was not expecting it to go as high as it did. – Destiny

Today was amazing! It's crazy to see all the places from movies and TV in person. When we arrived at Old Faithful, I first asked myself "What are all the benches for?" and "Why do people come from around the world to see this average geyser?" But then when it started and it started to bubble and a little water came out...I still didn't get it. But when the real show happened and the water shot into the sky my breath was taken away! I didn't imagine it being that beautiful in person... – Somer

When nature wants to speak it roars. When it wants to lead, it will draw you in. Old Faithful is wild and unique. There is nothing like it. – Asia



When I saw Old Faithful, it was so beautiful and so satisfying. – Justyce

We waited for a while for the geyser to erupt but it was well worth the wait. – Aariona

It was cool when all the water shot up. – Ahsay

The geyser was the most beautiful thing that I have seen on this entire trip. Nature isn't really my thing but I'm actually starting to like it and I'm taking full advantage of the opportunity. – Vonna

We went to watch the geyser explosion. It was pretty cool. I thought it was going to splash towards me but, sadly, it didn't. We then went to exercise and do another trail. My lazy self took the short way because I feel like I already lost some lbs. I don't need to lose any more. But this time I regret not going the long way because the view was absolutely beautiful...Some things you just have to experience yourself. It's not so easy to explain to others. – Hinde

Old Faithful is a very beautiful thing to watch. I love how the steam and water come out. They burst into the sky like flames and it's just so pretty. – Leilani

I got to go in a museum and I really like to read all of the different signs. – Daliyah

One quote I won't forget from the museum is "the earth is more alive where geysers and hot boiling water are present. Because of its geysers, basins, and thermal areas, Yellowstone is considered to have a lot of medicine and be a powerful spiritual place." – eastern Shoshone Cultural Center. I believe that quote because Yellowstone is a beautiful place with many wonders. - Fatuma

Old Faithful was a beautiful example of that Yellowstone has to offer. I like to think that people that come to see the old geyser come so they can release stress. The bubbling and smoke represents anxiety and stress getting conjured in you. When the geyser finally erupts it's like you can release all your stress and erase all your problems. I think it's a really calming process and watching it erupt can be very therapeutic. It's not only the geysers, though. The pools were especially calming. In the pool called "Black Pool," there was a chorus of colors vibrating off each other. A very bright blue in the middle, a gold yellow at the edge, and the neon versions of red and orange in the middle of the two colors. They can either represent the stages of anxiety relief or just a mirage of happiness, freedom, etc.... I really admired those artifacts of nature. I'm stress free. #YOLO – Famo

So, we just came back from a geyser explosion. We waited 90 minutes for it but it was worth it. – Danajah

Today we went and saw Old Faithful. Did you know Old Faithful erupts every 90 minutes?...This geyser shoots water up in the air. We watched another documentary about Yellowstone. I learned that Yellowstone is the largest National Park. – Ra'Quel

We got to Old Faithful (geyser). The way my teachers explained it to me didn't make it interesting. But when I say something like a geyser could possibly make me cry, believe me. When you look at the geyser you say to yourself, "This is REALLY A CREATION OF GOD." Well I do. After this erupted we watched a 20-minute video about geysers. And then we went to the gift shop to buy souvenirs. Soon after we went to the bus to go drive and see more geysers. They were amazing and I am grateful to see them. – Jada



We saw a museum and it had a room just for kids. It was fun. – Ahshay

We just ate lunch and I got an ice cream. I got a vanilla cone and it was the bomb! - Danajah

For lunch, I had teriyaki beef with noodles. It was delicious. Then I had some ice cream which was also delicious. – Leilani



I ate chili for lunch which was really good. After lunch, I met this really nice family from Southern California. They asked what Girls Inc. was and I was able to explain because Ms. Emily taught me how to answer questions when I was 12! I was able to tell them that we had a chapter in Orange County. They have a daughter and said they would look into it to see if there is a chapter closer to them. - Desy

I think we are going on another trail which I don't know if I'm doing that because I have a slightly torn ACL but if Ms. Roberta or Ms. CT can do it then I can too!!! – Justyce

I'm glad that I decided to go on the walk with Ms. Sheebie when no one else wanted to. I took one for the team and went, then others followed behind. – Vonna

After we ate we walked the trails. My feet are tired but my soul is wide awake. - Asia

After, we went water rafting and it was fun. Thanks to Justin for being an awesome guide. – Jada

Conversation before getting on the rafts:

Girl: My legs are cold.

Me: Did you pack any pants?

Girl: Yes.

Me: So, put them on.

Girl: I like to wear shorts.

Me: *shrug*

- Ms. Roberta

While riding, Mr. Reed let us steer down the river. It was so hard because the water was super heavy. We went over waves. We were splashed with water. When we hit a wave, we detoured a little and we went under a low hanging tree where it touched my face. - Destiny



Next was the water raft. I was a little hesitant at first but I said a little prayer not just for me but everyone on all 3 rafts. After the first 15 minutes, I realized that it wasn't so bad after all. Mr. Reed was a very good raft steerer and he made me feel real comfortable. One thing I learned is to stop asking "are we there yet," because you're always there. The past doesn't matter and the future doesn't either. It's about living and enjoying the moment right there. Live life. It goes on. - Vonna

The boat tour guide said, "One way to be happy is to surround yourself with positive people." - Nicoletta

We went on a boat ride in the Deadman Bar but actually it is the Snake River. We also learned that the mountains have names and the Indian tribes started the names. We also saw bald eagles, ducks, and birds. - Justyce

The thing I will most remember is the water rafting. It was my first time on a raft and going for that long. I want to thank Mr. Reed for using all his strength while rowing us down the river. He gave us blankets and gave us a chance to row the boat. It felt really long (10 miles) but it was really worth it and it was a great experience. Thank you. - Taylor



Then we went on a raft and we saw bald eagles, a beaver, and a few water fowl. Also, it was very cold and we could hear the rocks rolling on the bottom (it sounds like popping bacon grease) ...It was really fun today. - Caroline

On the boat, it was cold. I saw a lot of cool things like mountains and all kinds of birds. It was so cool to see how many birds were out there. I was making a lot of memories about what was around me so I can remember what this trip is like so that's why I was writing about this. - Tamia



We saw a lot of the wild life like eagles, raven, and osprey. - Ahshay

The best part of my day was the boat trip...We all started singing the **Sponge Bob** theme song. Also, **That's So Raven**.... I would do a float trip like this again 10,000 times. That's how much I enjoyed it. I also enjoyed my day. Thank you, staff, for planning such a fun and explorative day. - Fatuma

We road 10-12 miles down the river. I'm glad the driver told us the rules and regulations about how the boat works and how we should sit. He drove us down the safe path so we wouldn't get hurt or fall out. We saw 2 raven birds...and nests for birds. We had a great time, the good bonding we all shared, the laughter, jokes being cracked. It wasn't that long because we talked most of the wat. I'm stoked to have hone on this fun adventurous activity today. It was the most fun I had today.
— Jamia

The ride was very, very, very cold and windy but thankfully there were blankets. -Aariona

My best and favorite part of the day was the boat ride. Our guide was Mr. Reed. He was nice, exciting, funny, and very sarcastic. He was able to answer all our questions. He provided us with entertainment by acting like he was going to jump off the raft...He let us row the boat!! We were encouraging each other when we were taking turns rowing. Snake River is so shallow it was hard for me to tow. I made the boar turn in a circle, which I was really proud of myself. He deserves praise because that's a hard job. I saw two bald eagles! - Desy



The raft, it was amazing! I was super excited to go. As soon as we got away from the bank I felt a part of nature. It felt good to see the different birds in nature. And then I got to row the raft. It's easy to look at someone do their job but you'll never know how hard it is until you do it. I think I did pretty good! It felt good to be in control and row the raft...I can say it was my favorite part of the trip so far. - Somer

The river "boat" ride was absolutely relaxing and peaceful. With all the bad things happening in the world, sometimes you just need a little peace and quiet...we saw some pretty epic animals, too. We saw geese, ducks, beavers, and even a bald eagle. I want to say thank you to our driver for taking us safely to our destination and teaching me even more things than I knew before. I also want to say thank you to our friends on the ride for not being so crazy. Thank you to the staff and Ms. Sheebie and Ms. CT for keeping us calm and safe. The boat ride was pretty amazing. The view of the river and mountains was beautiful. Did you know the name of the river was Snake River? I really wanted to see a bear. The boat ride was a really good way to find your inner self and to cherish every moment. - Hinde

We also went on a boat. I saw bald eagles, falcons, and bird nests...The boat was fun. I never rode on a boat so I think that was a good experiment. The boat was comfortable. - Daliyah

The boat ride was a great experience. I got a chance to ride in a raft in the rover. We had the chance to steer the board/raft. It was an awesome experience. As I was steering I would feel the paddle moving along the river. When we first entered the boat, I sat on the ground of the raft. I could feel us hitting the bumps as we were riding down river going 7 miles per hour. I put my hand in the water. I remember him telling us that the water was 40 something degrees and he said that if we were to fall in we would freeze if we were in there for 3-4 minutes. That's a short amount of time but the water was freezing...and as we hit the bumps Davonna would scream because she was so scared and for some odd reason she believed there were sharks in the river. Toward the end of the ride she asked we were there yet. Mr. Reed said, "No matter where your destination is at, you're

always there living in the moment.” That was very true and I’m going to start saying that. I will always remember who told me. Why would I remember him? I would remember him not only because I’m journaling it but because he was the first person that took me and most others on their first river ride...Today was awesome. - VicTaijah

My favorite part of today was the float trip. I was really nervous at first but then I said, “It’s now or never.” The trip was very fun. Our tour guide had games we played. We played a spot-the-animal game. He even gave us blankets when we got cold. He told us interesting facts like all the names to the mountains. I really thank him for a wonderful trip and a safe one. – Ra’Quel

On the boat ride, there was an amazing view. We saw an eagle, a pelican, and some geese. The ride was very comfortable and relaxing. I will always remember this. – Leilani

The boat ride was very awesome. We sang. We got to paddle the boat...and had a very good time. Our group was funny and fun. Some of us were asking, “Are we there yet?” and the man said, “It doesn’t matter where you are, just know that you’re always there.” I really liked that quote. Shout out to the man for keeping us safe and entertained. CHERISH EVERY MOMENT – THE JOURNEY MATTERS. - Asnina

Day 6

I was the first one at breakfast this (and every!) morning. I enjoyed excellent coffee and a beautiful view. And ten minutes of peace and quiet before we started our day. – Ms. Roberta

I woke up today and had a wonderful breakfast. Thank you to the cooks. – Ra’Quel

I was so glad that we got to wake up a little later than usual. - Mariah

We started our day off with breakfast at the Snow King Resort hotel. The breakfast we really good and I most enjoyed the potatoes. After loading the bus, we went to the fish hatchery in Jackson, Wyoming. It was really cool to see how they harvest the fish and how the process goes. There was up to 6,000 fish in a tank and they looked so bunched up. It reminded me of Girls Inc. and the trip and how we stick together. I also learned that the hatching eggs keep the egg around them and eat them. It was really fun to walk on a bridge and see the fish. – Taylor

I was fascinated by the hotel we stayed in. The breakfast was by far the best and the service was good. - Vonna

I miss my mom!! 😞 This is the first time I’ve missed her when I was on a trip. This morning we had a great breakfast at the resort. I ate bacon, eggs, potatoes, pineapple, and drank orange juice. - Desy





We only know what we ask. - Asia

Today we went to a fish hatchery and saw how they kept the fish population in check. First, we saw the fish eggs and how they were changed into different places as they grew. They also showed us how they move the fish and how they breed them. And where they place them after they are big enough. This is important to sustain a steady population so people can fish them. – Caroline

Today we went to Jackson National Fish Hatchery. They only raise Cutthroat trout. It's federally funded and only sells its fish to tribal locations and federally stocked waters. Private owners can't but fish from there.... They raise fish year-round. I saw a robin's nest which was my first time. I thought the hatchery

was near and important to keep around. I would never have gone there on my own. Now, I learned something new and may be able to bring awareness to the project by speaking about it. There were ground squirrels running around. They are so cute! They usually pop up by early spring and begin hibernation by late August. It's interesting that they hibernate so early! - Desy

They can tell what kind of animal hurt the fish. Like a racoon would leave claws on a fish's back. – Asnina

I was looking at the cutthroat fish and I was saying to myself, "This fish isn't that big." But compared to the baby ones, they have grown a lot...My favorite part was walking through the tanks of fish because we were so close and it was just cool and a little scary. - Ariyah - Ariyah

So, we just came back from a fishing trip and we are about to eat. OK, we are back. I got a fidget spinner. – Danajah

Today was quite interesting. I have to admit that I wasn't really excited when Ms. Roberta said that we were going to a fish hatchery today and was less excited when we arrived on the bus. But when





the tour actually started, I was interested in what he said...It's really good to know there are people that have a passion for their job and take it very seriously. Mr. Yates said he traveled from Florida every summer to volunteer. So, when he does a good job they double his pay and when he does a bad job they deduct his pay – his words, not mine. - Somer

I found out that the fish are different shapes and sizes because of their genes. – Daliyah

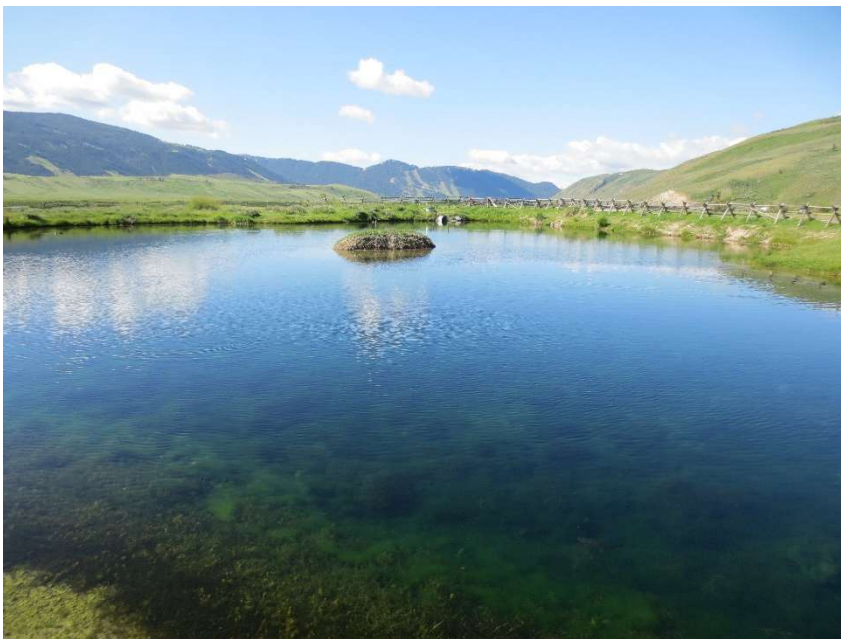
Our tour guide was excellent. He told us, "I'll jabber all day long about fish if you let me." His name was Michael and he had a degree in Biology, in Wildlife &

Fish Science. It was nice for the girls to hear about his #STEM degree and to see the kinds of hands-on work he does with his education. His excitement was contagious. – Ms. Roberta

In the spring is when they lay the eggs. September/October is when they ship them out to 3 organizations. They put them on a 1200 lbs. truck and measure the weight with water displacement. - Destiny

I was happy that I got to see the life cycle of a fish. It's crazy that I cook fish a lot for my family but I didn't know about it. I'm glad I got to experience it. I got to see what a fish hatchery is. - Fatuma

We started off our day with a trip to the fish hatchery. I thought it was one of the cooler things we have done so far. We got to look around the farm and see how fish are raised...In an egg tank there are about 6,200 eggs but only 5% of them will survive so in the housing area there are hundreds of thousands of eggs so they can still breed enough fish and meet their quota. – Aariona



We went to Jackson Fish Hatchery. We saw thousands and thousands of fish. We even saw three birds' nests. I only remember 1 type of bird. It was a mocking jay. The instructor told us last year she had 4 little birdies and this year they don't know how many because they haven't hatched yet. – VicTaijah

Visiting the fish hatchery was so surreal. Mike was a good tour guide and I saw how passionate he was about what he does. Learning what he does and how long the process takes, I kind of picked up that patience is key...I know in the end he is proud of what he does. - Vonna

Near the pond we saw ground squirrels. They were so cute. Our guide pointed out the mountains that we saw from the pond's view. The mountain had snow on the top of it and the shape looked like a sleeping Indian man. At first, I couldn't see it but then I noticed it. – Mariah

There was a guy who had a job to sit with the baby fish/eggs and use a turkey baster to pull out the ones that had died. They call them "morts" which is short for mortalities. – Ms. Roberta

We went to a fish hatchery today. We had a tour of the place and saw how fish grow. Fish start off as tiny orange eggs. Then they grow eyes...Eventually a darker orange line will appear which is forming the organs of the fish. Then the fish will start to form and wiggle out of the egg. Once the fish is out it will have a little sack on



it which is its food. The fish will keep growing from there and soon drop the sack because it will be fully grown. Our tour guide has been in this business for about 8 years. I thank the tour guide for a great tour. – Ra'Quel

Today was a casual day. We went to a fish hatchery in Jackson, Wyoming. I learned a lot from our tour guide. We walked through a part of the building that had eggs and fish. – Jada

Today when we went to the fish hatchery, I got hit with the bomb of information that was very interesting and useful to know. I liked it when our tour guide let us see the thousands of, I think, cut throat fish and we got to learn

about how the government transferred the eggs that were fertilized to the hatchery do they could go through the 16-month process of growing eyes and a red stripe. The red stripe shows that they are starting to grow their organs. Then they grow their tail and they have a huge sack under their eyes. Then they grow out of their sack and become big enough to swim without the little water pan (I know I skipped a lot of stages). – Famo

Today we went to the interesting fish hatchery. I learned many things I didn't know before. I didn't know that fish can weigh up to 50 lbs. That's the size of a child. One thing I would do from now on is research everything I am about to eat before I eat it and know how they came to be. I didn't know it takes them 16 months to get the fish to be how they are. Another thing I didn't know is how my little sister Famo knows so much. I'm really proud of her...Don't tell her I said that, Ms. LOL. - Hinde

Soon after, we went to the Town Square. Mariah and I were partners and shared money together. She's a great friend and I really appreciate how kind she is. Thank you, Mariah from the bottom of my heart! #MariahRocks – Jada

I saw an art exhibit! I've never been in a store where you can see and buy really expensive art! The highest amount I saw was \$100,000! It was a piece by the famous Pablo Picasso. My last unit on pottery was about him. I was excited to see his work with my own eyes. - Desy

...We went to pick out our restaurant by ourselves because I think we are responsible enough. – Kami

Our lunch today was good but the staff had trust in us enough to go off with a partner without them. We got to choose our own food place and sit down to enjoy the part of the state we were in. Plus, we spent quality time together with our friends. We had laughter and more. – Jamia



We walked around in shops and got some good pizza. – Justyce

My friends got pizza...It was huge and delicious. – Asia

Downtown was very fun, walking around into different places and then going to the Mexican Grill place and eating. But they should have at least told us that they add tip and gratitude [sic] with it making us go over budget. But it's okay cause it was good. They day was fun. Take the first step – see the world! – Asnina

We were seated in a good spot and treated with warm, fresh chips and well-made salsa. - Vonna

I liked how we got to walk around with our friends. - Mariah

Today when we went to Jackson Square, we got to eat the best pizza and ice cream in the world!... Kami, Asia, and I were wandering around looking for a Gateway and instead we found heaven! I had an amazing day! - Famo – Famo

We got to the hotel and it's really beautiful and so is the view. I love the mountain scenery and I really love the rooms. The mirror and the lighting are poppin'. I look not only strong, smart, and bold, but also beautiful. - Hinde

Day 7



Today we ate breakfast and got on the road. We rode all the way to Cheyenne, Wyoming and went to the Frontier Mall. I really like the mall because it had all the stores I liked and I got to shop at new stores. - Taylor

Today was one of those days that we were on the bus most of the day...til we got to the Frontier Mall. Me and my partner went to a lot of stores. We ended up being late because we went through the wrong exit. – Jada

Today was another good day. Actually, every day since we left Omaha has been a good day. - VicTaijah

Aniellia and I walked around the mall buying things for ourselves and our families.... It was super fun. – Caroline

We got to go to the mall.... Ms. CT gave us \$10 for lunch...and released all the girls on what we call heaven. – Asia

We were given two hours to shop and eat lunch. I had fun being able to be free and to roam with friends. ...I made sure I bought reasonable things with reasonable prices. – Ariyah

I found great deals. I like to find deals and shop on clearance. - Desy

I ate Chinese food. It was good. - Tamia

Just got back from the mall and BOYYYY did I ball out but it was mostly for my family since I didn't get them anything at the gift shops. I also had so much fun there. Normally I'm not the shopping person but Jada got me (LOL). - Justyce

After the mall, we went to North Platte, Nebraska and went bowling. The wings were really good and I really enjoyed talking to my friends. – Taylor

Today is our last day in the hotel and I'm so excited to go back to my family because I missed them so much and can't wait to see them for the first time in my entire life. – Kami

I can't wait to go bowling because I have only been once which was when I was like 5 or 6. Another reason why I want to go bowling is because I want to hang out with Aniellia and she's very silly and funny. And also, beautiful...We just came from bowling. It was really fun. I came in second but everybody was doing great When we went bowling our pants and shoes and clothes were glowing. – Daliyah



Before bowling, we also ate wings and nachos at a restaurant. I did also tip the waiter because I feel that he did a great job. Right after eating we went bowling. I wasn't the best at it but I feel that I did a good job. I came in 3rd place. - Mariah

We went bowling. I won the game but at first, I was not winning. Famo was and I was happy for her that she was winning and the first time I was winning I got so happy I almost started dancing. I had so much fun. Thanks staff. – Tamia PS: I was happy for everybody.

We bowled one game and ate wings. I lost but it was okay because I had fun. We walked back [to the hotel] and on the way a guy driving by threw a cup full of pop at us. It is a sign that racism is still there. Some people can't stand that a group of singing black girls are free and having fun. It fills some people with hatred to see that the world is changing. - Asia

Gratitude

I am so proud of staff for taking the time and effort to take me on this trip. 😊 Danajah

Actually, I have to credit Ms. CT for my happiness of attending this trip. If she didn't call my mom and say, "I want Desy to go on the trip," I wouldn't be here. I'm grateful to be able to travel, expand my world, educate my mind, and laugh my heart out with so many amazing ladies. - Desy

The trip was very fun. I had so much fun. I met new friends and learned a lot of new things...I got to see amazing, fantastic things like geysers, hot springs, mud springs, fish development cycle, Mount Rushmore, Crazy Horse,

Badlands, etc...Everything was amazing. I enjoyed it. I want to thank the driver for keeping us safe throughout the whole trip on the road. And the staff, you guys are the best. And I really want to thank Ms. Shirley for helping to pay for my trip...I've been on two trips already. This is my third and all were fun and amazing and I don't want it to end here. I want to continue on more until my years come to an end. I want to explore the world as much as I can and continue on going forward from here. Remember: Enjoy the ride. Meet people. Find Yourself. Pick up and go circle the GLOBE!! - Asnina

Thank you, guys, for the hard work of this trip. – Taylor

I want to give a special shout out to Ms. Barb. Without you, this trip wouldn't have been possible for me. I am extremely grateful for your investment. I want you to know that I enjoy and learn a lot on these trips. I hope you understand how much I love these trips through my journal entries. I make amazing memories, learn hundreds of new things, and build character each day. I understand the world a little bit better every day because of YOU!! Thank you so much, Ms. Barb! Words can't even explain the gratitude. The trip is over and I'm ready to annoy my mother and sister. - Desy

Coming on these trips is such a blessing. If it wasn't for Girls Inc. I wouldn't know some of these places we go to. So, I just want to say thank you to my Girls Inc. family. Much love. - Fatuma

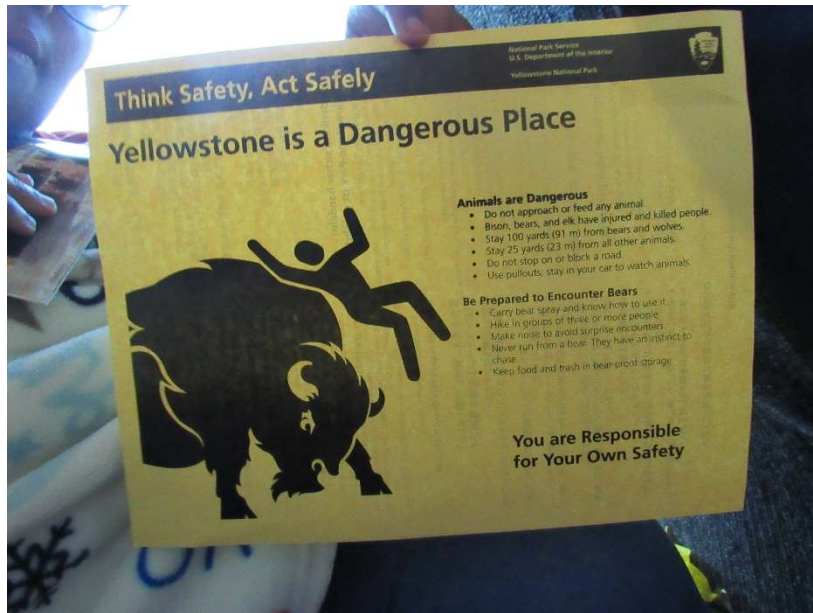
Thank you bus driver for dealing with out confusing minds (girls girls girls). - Hinde

I am going to give a shout out to Ms. CT for trying her best by getting everyone together, not hurt, and not in trouble. Also making us have good food, money, and a safe place to sleep. I'd like to thank Ms. Roberta for giving people chances for their mistakes so they can learn from them and for being kind, caring, and positive. Like Ms. Sheedy [Sheebie], she's funny, positive, nice and does well helping with the money. Also Ms. Brent [Bev] us helpful watching kids and helping with food...That's why I'm glad to be on this trip with independent women that help us. - Aniellia

Dear Ms. Roberta, Ms. CT, and others,

I would just like to thank you for letting me have the experience of going to this trip to Yellowstone. It was only as amazing as it could ever be and I would like to thank you for that. I barely knew anyone when I started and didn't imagine meeting anyone new. Oh, how I was wrong. In the one week that we have been traveling I made more friends than I could ever in a year. I also got to explore the environment around me beyond Omaha and had many fun and educating days. My favorites day was probably when we went on the float trip. It was thrilling to ride the waves and I learned a lot about the river we floated on. My favorite educating day was probably the fish hatchery. It may not seem true but I actually enjoyed learning about how the operation works. All other days were fun but those two were most exciting. For the people I met on this trip I made two new besties. Jada is one because she is awesome and funny. She's also just fun to be around and can make you smile easily. Asia is the other because she is relatable, loyal, understanding, and also just fun to be around. I got closer to many people also. I got to meet Ms. Sheebie who as one of my favorite staff. It's too bad she left but I'm





happy she's a grandma now. I loved this trip and honestly can't wait to go to the next trip. I hope can go with help. Thank you all again and I love you all for helping me attend the trip this year. Sincerely - Famo

You know I really appreciate how Girls Inc. is taking the time to take us on this trip. Thank you, Girls Inc., I am really proud of Ms. CT. for making this happen. She is a brave, strong woman. And that makes me feel welcome and "all of that good stuff." And all of the staff and others inspire me. Believe in yourself. Don't listen to negative people. – Danajah

I want to say thank you to the bus driver for putting away our bags. – Jada

This trip has been an honor to attend. I tried things I have never done before and I'm proud of myself. Now I have memories to share and cherish forever. I'm really living life thanks to my friends and staff. - Vonna

During this trip, so far, a lot of amazing changes and privileges have come my way. I just want to say thank you to all the staff and bus driver for doing this for me and the rest of the girls. Also, all the staff in the hotels, that they can keep up with our messiness. Overall, I'm really thankful that my mom put me on this trip and let me experience leaving Omaha. - Justyce



It was an amazing experience for my first time being able to come on this trip. It wouldn't have been possible if it wasn't for my mom and dad and Berkshire Hathaway friends. But who I am really thanking and shouting out to is Berkshire Hathaway friends; they paid for the rest of the trip. I'm blessed that I get the opportunity to leave out of Omaha and be in a different state without my parents. I thank the bus driver again for getting us to our destination safely. I also like how Girls Inc. covered our snacks, breakfast, lunch, and dinner. I hope to go on another trip...Thanks for an eye-opener trip to different and better things to discover. – Jamia

Thank you, Berkshire Hathaway friends, for helping me go on this trip. I don't know who you are so thanks. I wanted to go and you helped my mom out by not letting her pay for all of the trip money because my mom already gave me spending money...I want to say thank you again. – Tamia

I want to give a shout out to Friends of Foster Care for helping me with my trip. I don't know anything about you guys but I do know you guys must be pretty awesome. I also want to thank my family and mom for the money and help you gave



me. And my uncle helped me a little, too. My grandma spent over \$100 on me just to go on this trip. So I want to thank Girls Inc. staff for raising the money for us to go also. – Daliyah

Thank you to Ms. Roberta for buying me a vintage dictionary AA that says my favorite quote on there. – Hinde

Today is a bittersweet feeling. I'm sad that I can't experience such beautiful scenery and go through unique experiences every day but I'm brought to joy knowing that I'm going home and sharing my memories with my family and friends who all helped make the trip possible for me, along with Berkshire Hathaway friends. I know that they could have put their money elsewhere but decided to donate it to me and give me the opportunity to see parts of the world that most people don't see. I got to see Mount Rushmore, Crazy Horse, and Old Faithful in one whole week. Most people can only see one in their lifetime. I myself am lucky that I got to see them and much more. Riding a train around South Dakota, looking around the beautiful Badlands, touring Yellowstone National Park, riding a self-

manage roller coaster, and staying at such beautiful hotels. I can say thank you a million times but it won't express how truly thankful I am. - Somer

Shout out to Ms. Susan for making the trip possible. I learned so much these amazing four days. It's hard for some girls to come on a trip like this. Either they can't afford it or have no one who will. But you sponsor...help us come here. THANK YOU! In school, we learn but we only learn half the plate, sometimes not even that. But when you have the once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to go to that place you have a full plate of facts, education, etc.... And when you go for yourself you learn things that the average teacher would never tell you. Wanting to learn more leads to exploring and exploring leads to more learning. I came on this trip not knowing who Crazy Horse is to probably being able to write a whole paper about him. Sometimes, I just think and say I would never look to read an article about this or a book, etc.... But I'm thankful that Girls Inc. asked about this trip. And I'm happy that I took the opportunity. Ms. Susan, thank you dearly, I hope you donate again. I really enjoyed it. THANK YOU SO MUCH! – Jada

Dear Richard Brooke Foundation,
I just wanted to take the time to thank every single person who sponsored me and made it possible for me to go on this life-changing trip. Before this trip, I had no idea what a geyser was. I da no idea who or who Old Faithful was. I had so much fun learning about the animals and geysers...Making memories and learning new things are very important to me. I'm so glad and thankful to be able to attend the trip. I'm thankful for my step-father's mother to give me spending money...Thank you everyone, It really means a lot to me. - Destiny

It's day seven and the trip is coming to an end. I am thankful to Berkshire Hathaway friends for making this trip possible. This is my 3rd trip.: D.C., Hawaii, and here. And this





could be my last since I am moving this summer. I appreciate being able to attend the past two trips. Alto thanks to Girls Inc. for picking me for the trips because it is a privilege. Especially Hawaii. Only 10 people were able to go. I took the 10th spot. All the things I have seen – geysers, Hawaiian beaches, the Lincoln memorial, and more. Girls Inc. has given lots of opportunities from the Michelle Obama speech to being at the Girls Inc. luncheon. - Ariyah

I don't even know how to start this journal entry without saying..." We must take adventures in order to know where we truly belong." – anonymous I wouldn't have known how truly loved I am if it wasn't for Girls Inc. and I just want to thank everybody who made this trip possible for me. Thank you, Mr. Vic, Ms. Roberta's husband. I've know you for soooo long and without both of you this trip wouldn't have been possible for me. I'm really blessed and thankful. Thank you!!! Now you're probably wondering how was my trip, right? Well, I just want to say it was the most fascinating and information trip I've been on and I've been to 3 other trips (D.C., New Orleans, and California). On this trip, I feel like I can go back to school and not only be the strongest and boldest but also mostly the smartest girl there. My favorite thing we did on this trip was the rides to the hotels, the roller coaster, and spending all the time we had with the North girls. Also looking at the most beautiful view ever and getting picture to remember all the small and big moments...I just love traveling and I know I said thank you already but just know I really meant it. I got some new friends and met some old ones. I want to give a shout out to Kami for being herself on this trip and for being my friend. I'm glad I got to help her out and be her roommate. Shout out to Ariyah for also being herself and telling me more about her story and trusting me. She's one strong, smart black, beautiful woman I met. And funny. And most Desy for being there for my sister Fatuma and trying to learn more about our culture and so did Ariyah. We were one big diverse group (Kami, Fatuma, Asnina, Desy, and I). ...I just love these...adventures. I can't wait to go on the nest one. Life was meant for good friends and great adventures and so the adventure begins. THANK YOU, GIRLS INC, for making traveling and seeing the world the most fun thing I have done and still want to do. - Hinde

I am also thankful we had donors and supporters. People donated money to Girls Inc. to pay for the trip. I appreciate those people who donated. I especially want to thank the Richard Brooke Foundation because not only did they help me, they helped a bunch of girls. Without them what we purchase would be more limited. I don't think we would make it without the Richard Brooke Foundation and other donors and supporters. I will also say that I learned new things and I have had a fun and great time on the trip. – Mariah



Dear Ms. Barb: Thank you for making this trip happen. You are the reason that I am here. I'm sure you're courageous and strong. You make the world a better place. I have learned many things on this trip. Thank you, Ms. Barb. - Danajah

I want to thank Ms. Ann for giving me this great opportunity. You worked really hard for that money. Instead of keeping it or saving, you gave it to a girl that has a bright future in life...I hope you don't regret it. Your money took me to a place I never thought I would see in real life (Yellowstone National Park, Mount Rushmore, and the Badlands). Thank you...I would also like to thank my mom because she paid some of the amount. I

am really thankful for both of them. Thank you. - Taylor

Thank you, Ms. Roberta, for believing in me. – Danajah

I want to thank Ms. Maureen for giving money to let me be able to go on this wonderful adventure of a trip. I have seen so many amazingly beautiful things, eaten amazing food, and hung out with really cool people. I've seen wildlife that is rare. I have never seen a bear, eagle, beaver, or pelican until I got to come on this trip. - Asia

I really thank this bus driver for driving us all over...He is the nicest driver ever. - Daliyah

My journal today will be all about giving thanks to those I appreciate. I would never be on this trip if it wasn't for the friends at Richard Brooke Foundation. They gave me money to make it possible for me to be on this trip. I thank them because they didn't have to do it but they did. I also want to thank all of the staff. Our staff made this trip fun and safe so I want to thank them for that. Lastly, I want to thank our driver. He got us here and will get us back safely. He put up with our loudness and never got distracted. So, I thank the driver for a smooth trip. This was an outstanding trip. I hope to do it again. – Ra'Quel

Ms. Barb...Thank you for taking us here. I really appreciate it...I am thrilled and excited that I went on this trip. – Kami

My Dad is the one that let me go on this trip and gave me money to spend on me. So, I will like to repay him...with a bracelet with is favorite colors, red & gray. Also, a locket that says #1 Dad. I really do hope he likes it – loves it – and fits it! – Aniellia

Dear Richard Brooke Foundation,
First and foremost, it has been an honor to attend the trip this year. This was my second trip with Girls Inc. and I'm glad I chose to go. When I first found out about the trip it didn't sound like something I'd be interested in. After I did a little research, I changed my mind. Your Foundation has really helped this trip out a lot. Your donation and everything you did for this trip has been very much appreciated. I have grown up so much over the years with Girls Inc. it almost makes me teary eyed. I used to be the girl that was always in trouble but as I got

older, I learned how to act. I'm thankful for all the Girls Inc. staff that I had and still have in my life. This trip has taught and showed me so much. Out of all 17 years of my life as far that I can remember, I have never valued nature so much. In reality nature is such a beautiful thing and I think everyone should get the chance to experience it for themselves. Another thing that I learned was to break away from my clique and get to know new people. I have made new friends Famo, Asnina, and Hinde. Being that they are African I didn't really think we had much in common but I was wrong. Having a relationship with them made this trip 10X better. Breaking my shell and stepping out of my comfort zone was actually fun. As many say, "you never know if you will like something until you try it." ...Thank you, Richard Brooke Foundation, for making this trip a huge success for me. - Vonna

First of all I would like to give a huge thank you to the Richard Brooke Foundation for sponsoring me on this trip. You don't know how much this means to me. I would also like to thank my parents for paying and letting me go on this trip. Without you guys I wouldn't be able to gain as much as I did. I made lots of friends but in particular I have gained three best friends. Before I came on this trip I wasn't sure I wanted to go. I was scared because I didn't know if girls from Eureka! would be there. Luckily Aniellia was. Before this trip I never really talked to Aniellia. In Eureka! we had our own group of friends so we never really spoke. But since this trip happened she's like my best friend. The number one thing I will remember about this trip is the friendships because they're so special. Of course, I will remember all the cool things we got to see like Mt. Rushmore...but those once-in-a-lifetime things, but friendships are the ones that last forever. - Leilani



Dear Berkshire Hathaway Friends,
I appreciate you funding me for the trip and helping me get these experiences. I enjoyed the trip and all the experiences in Yellowstone and in the Badlands and in the museums and monuments, about the importance of natural history and human history. This experience overall was the best I ever had. – Caroline

Thanks to all the parents who helped us load and unload the bus. It's a big job! – Ms. Roberta

I want to give a special thanks to Richard Brooke Foundation. If they didn't help me on this trip then I would just be at home on my phone. Also, I wouldn't have a great experience back in Omaha, when I did at all these places. Another reason why I am thankful to go on this trip is because what we learned about in school I actually got to see in real life. So, thanks for that!! - Justyce

I am so grateful for the people that made this happen. I am so grateful for the Foster Care group/donors that made this possible for me because this trip was a great opportunity for me to see the world. Things that I never dreamed of seeing because I never thought it was possible. I hope that next year these donors could still provide for us to give not only me but also other girls that have never been on a Girls Inc. trip or out of Omaha at all because the trip opens your eyes to new things and dreams. I just hope the next group would just be as thankful as I am because this trip made a great impact on my life. It might not be a lot or seem like it but it taught me to open my eyes to the world and to enjoy the people around me while it lasts. Thank you, Girls Inc., and thank you donors, not just mine but all of them/you because little things like this are big things to some of us. Thank you. – VicTaijah

I want to say thank you to Ms. Barb for paying for me to go on this trip so thank you for doing that for me. And thank you for my mom and dad for helping me be on this trip. Also, the staff at Girls Inc. for doing all of this for us. So, thank you. – Ahshay

Thank you, Ms. Barb, for letting us go on this trip. It was really worth going. We did everything I imagined...We learned things, we had fun, we relaxed. It was really cool of you to send money for us to go on this trip. This is my first one. This is the best summer I ever had. – Aniellia PS: The food is so good 😊.

It's about going out of Omaha and travelling to see new things and learn new things and also to experience it. So basically, I can come home and say hey, Mom, or hey, Dad "I did this" or I had fun. I enjoyed my time. Thanks to Berkshire Hathaway friends, Girls Inc. and many more for your donations. Thank you for letting me go on this trip. I learned so much...I've been to places I'll never be again. So for me, I appreciate those opportunities and I appreciate each and every one of you. Thank you! - Fatuma



Dear Richard Brook Foundation,
I would like to kindly thank you for your generous donation towards Girls Inc. that helped me attend the 2017 Girls Inc. trip to Yellowstone National Park and enjoy the educating, adventurous, and exciting stops on the way there.

Without your donation, many girls wouldn't have attended and I'm sure they are all grateful for your actions. Did you know that the Girls Inc. of Omaha, NE. is the only center that does this exciting activity each year for its teens? Well they are. But this year they invited a few 9-12-year-olds to also participate out of the kindness of their hearts. And

because they believe that everyone can have a chance at learning new things. For example, one of the many stops we made was in South Dakota. There we got to learn about, see, and admire America's largest sculpture. We learned about Lincoln Borglum and how he created the beautiful masterpiece. We also got to witness the eruption of Old Faithful Geyser when we visited Yellowstone National Park in Wyoming. These are just two things I got to see in one week we had the trip. This is mostly possible because of you. Thank you again from Girls Inc. and from me. – Sincerely, Fatima (Famo)



Dear Richard Brooke Foundation,
I want to start off by saying thank you for meeting us half way on this trip. Not only that but I know you work hard for your money and you don't have to give us a dime but you still did. I really appreciate that. - Nicoletta

This is my last and final journal entry ever!!! This will be the last of my Girls Inc. trips but not the last of my travels. I have been on 5 total trips and have even been as far as Hawaii. None of this would have been possible without the help of my mother and my stepfather. My stepdad always tells me how lucky I am to be so young and travel. He says he didn't go on his first vacation until he was in his 30's.. I also want to

send a huge thank to to Ms. Shirley. I don't know her and she doesn't know me but I guess sometimes strangers can be the kindest people. Without Ms. Shirley and the other donors, many of us wouldn't be able to make it on the trips and see all of the things we see. - Aariona

Today I figured out that some lady named Ms. Barb paid for me so I will give a shout out for her. Thank you! I really appreciate what you did for me. - Fardowsa

The trip has been really cool and fun. My dad told me that people save almost their entire life to come to something like this and thinking about that made me appreciate this experience. – Leilani

I've been on 5 trips now and this trip is the trip that girls from North and South combined so well you couldn't even be like North Girls or South girls... it's all girls. But I love the combining. I also love how we barely gave you guys worries. I heard less concerns on this trip other than the ones the little kids made...I think overall the girls did good on this trip. Shout out to you girls! Love you and thank you for being family! - Fatuma



Apologies:

I am truly sorry for acting out, being loud, walking around in my pj's, and my room being a mess. I want to swim. Please forgive me Ms. CT, Ms. Roberta, Ms. Sheebie!!! I want to come next time so I am going to not be lazy and put stuff on each other. Please. I don't want to sleep in ya'll's room. – anonymous

We had to get talked to by Ms. CT. Which isn't a bad thing. Let's just say we were getting taught a lesson. But I know I can only speak for myself. Even though it wasn't my room, I'm sorry for the way some of my peers acted. - anonymous

I am so sorry please forgive me. I want to be a leader so tomorrow look out for me because you are going to be impressed. – anonymous

I'm sorry for being late. We should've never gone to a far-away store and thought we could make it to the bus. – anonymous

PS: Sorry I forgot to turn in my journal before swimming. – anonymous

I want to apologize for having my cell phone. I knew better and I shouldn't have kept it with me regardless if it didn't have service. - anonymous

Dear All Teachers,

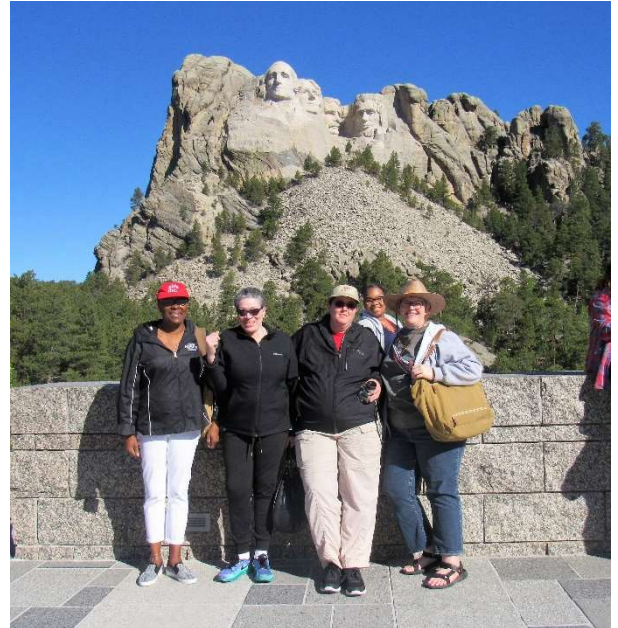
I am truly sorry for my actions these past days. I can admit that my actions were pretty dumb. I wanted to walk out of the room in my PJ's after you ladies told us not to. I was also running up and down from my room. I'm sorry for not following directions. And also, being loud in our hotel. And I was following not being a leader. And _____ wanted to keep drinking cocoa and coffee after you ladies told us not to. And everybody wanted to do wrong except for _____ and I kept telling them not to. That's why I went and got a teacher because I couldn't take it anymore. But I'm truly sorry and I mean it. It won't happen again. - anonymous

In the morning, my room that I was sleeping in was messy and I wanted to say sorry for the messy room. I hope Ms. CT and Ms. Roberta accept my apology and anything else I did. I am so sorry. Please forgive me and if I could I would find the maid that cleaned the room and thank her and I want you to know I am very responsible so please accept my apology. - anonymous

I'm sorry about earlier. You woke me up and I had an attitude and you had told me to get up again and I was already up so I kinda snapped in a way you didn't deserve that and I'm sorry Ms. Roberta. – anonymous [This must not have been much of anything because I don't remember it... - Ms. Roberta]

Dear Ms. CT and Ms. Roberta,

I'm sorry for going in and out of my room last night and when ya'll said not to go out in your PJ's. It won't happen again and I'm also sorry for our room being dirty and candy and ice cream being everywhere. Again, I apologize and I will not happen again. - anonymous





Dear All of You,

I know that my room was loud. And it wasn't the whole room but if one gets in trouble we all do. And I am deeply sorry for our actions. Ms. Roberta, you are a very nice person. And I know us being too loud pushed you to your limits. I'm sorry! – anonymous Ps: I can only speak for myself but I am pretty sure the other girls feel the same.

Dear Maids, Ms. Roberta, and Ms. CT,

I would like to deeply apologize to you for our disrespectful actions and messes either made or future done. I apologize on behalf of my roommates and myself for our noise in advance. I try to stay clean at home and clean up after myself and I don't expect you guys to not want the same done in any and every new place we go to. My actions of walking around the halls were foolish and should never have been done. I would also like to apologize on behalf of everyone that had made a mess on the bus. Although I did clean my space, I understand that my mess is theirs as theirs is mine since we are all experiencing this trip together. I am happy to be eligible to attend this trip. I understand that this is a privilege and I should not take advantage of this privilege. I happily volunteer to clean up the bus, check rooms, or help keep everything in order. I will take full responsibility for anything I do. I want to respect every decision you make even rash ones if they're fair. I know you guys are just trying to help, protect, and care for us with everything you do. I, again, would like to apologize on behalf of myself and everybody on this privilege of a trip. – anonymous PS: I'm sorry.

First, I want to apologize to Ms. CT and the rest of the Girls Inc. group for the inappropriate note I wrote at the Buffalo Bill Center. It wasn't only disrespectful to the Center but to everyone else who read the guest book. This was totally out of character for me and it won't happen again. - anonymous

Misc:

Problem Solving

Me: What is wrong? Are you ok?

Girl: I just miss my mom. Thank you for asking.

Make people feel welcome! Do what's right! – Danajah

I am so glad to be here. I know I complain a lot about being hungry. But I really have enjoyed myself on the trip. - Asia



I want to say congrats to Ms. Sheebie about being a grandma and I want to say this trip was fun. I may have had a few problems but the trip was still fun. - Ahshay

Girls, give me all of the fidget spinners. I will return them after the trip. – Ms. Roberta

I'll never forget how much fun I had on this trip because this has been a fun experience and I enjoyed all of it especially since I had fun with the teens and they like me for me. – Kami

I am really happy I can be with other girls that I can talk to and other girls that I have not met are my friends now. I like making new friends and they care about if I get...sad. They make me smile. – Tamia

Fatuma is teaching me her language: Mai Mai! – Desy

Bus etiquette from Ms. CT: "If you have to fart, give the bus a break and go to the bathroom." #Word – Ms. Roberta

During the bus drive, I was thinking about the trip, Girls Inc. and just family and friends. During these past years, I've been going through a lot with my sister running away and my mom being in the hospital every month. At the end of the day, I went to my Girls Inc. family to get help and talk to them. They've helped me in so many ways. Girls Inc. gives me all the opportunities in the world, so I would never give up on them. I appreciate each and every person that go me where I am today. My favorite quote is: I'm stronger because I had to be. I'm smarter because of my mistakes. I'm happier because I've overcome the sadness I have known and I'm wiser because I've learned from my life. – unknown - anonymous

I am chanting for Ms. Ct and Ms. Roberta:

Let's go staff. Let's go. Clap clap.

Let's go staff. Let's go. Clap clap.

Ms. R Ms. C is so clean. They both got problems with their leg and knee.

They know how to walk.

They know how to talk.

They are the best.

Stay the best.

Go staff.

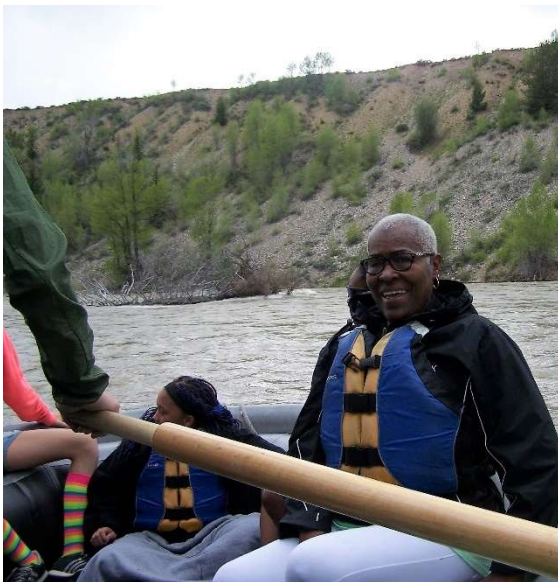
- Danajah

Ms. Sheebie brought a cooler full of fresh, delicious pineapple with her from Hawaii. We added pineapple to our breakfast and dinner menus a couple of times. #Delish. – Ms. Roberta

You now I am really mad at her. I let her have something and she said I can use her goggles. But she said no. I am really confused. But it is her thing so I respect that. But I am still upset. – Danajah

Earlier when Kami, Ferdowsa and I were looking and taking pictures of the beautiful garden scenery at the Black Hills, Ferdowsa said that she takes so many beautiful pictures that she could become a photographer.

Although she does take stunning pictures, I doubt that she'll lead towards that career. I imagine her becoming a Queen Latifah or Hale Berry. I imagine everyone becoming very successful in life. Like Mariah. She is a really good artist. She could even become the net DaVinci. Everyone here is so nice and talented. I don't think I can live up to them. - Famo



Life in general helps shape you. – Caroline

Another thing that made me happy was my friendship with Famo. Before the trip she was a stranger but within these few days of being together it feels like I've known her for a lifetime. She is definitely a good friend. - Vonna

My goal for this summer is to just fall in love with myself & the world & my life again. I think this trip and many others are great medicine for myself. Thank you, Girls Inc.!!! - Hinde

Caroline, Aniellia, and Leilani were amazing people. They help you go through things. They make you laugh. They are the best friends you can ever have. – Ferdowsa

At one point Ms. Bev told me one of the girls was referring to me as "Ms. Sheebie's sister" as in "would you please tell Ms.

Sheebie's sister..." How did that happen? I have been working here for fourteen years. She has been on this trip five days? – Ms. Roberta

Getting to know people – it's nice to go on this trip. I met two new friends. One I never talk to at Eureka! They're very nice and cool. Their names are Caroline/Carbare; Lenatina/Buddy. "giggles" we went shopping together, swimming, and to the hotel together. We even sat with one another. If I hadn't met them, I wouldn't make it through the trip. Friends need one another. - Aniellia

It was fun to take pictures so I can show them to my family – of all the cool things I saw each week. But when you take pictures your family wants you to talk to them about what you saw and when they see them they seem surprised and are happy that you have seen so much and [they] wish they could go. - Kami

My experience on this trip is to learn how to be nice to others, be respectful to others, and to make people feel welcome. I love traveling with Girls Inc. – Danajah

I like how Ms. Roberta talks to us about how good we are. – Tamia

This morning I let Hinde wrap my hair. I wanted to be more like my sisters! I'm learning and practicing Mai Mai. I know how to say hi, bye, Okay, and shut up! I'm proud of my two days of learning! - Desy

I feel like I judged this trip by its cover! I thought it was going to be boring and I'm not going to have fun but that's the total opposite. I loved it and most definitely want to come back. – Justyce



When we walked in the store, the lady complimented us on how nice Famo and I were. That definitely made me happy. - Vonna

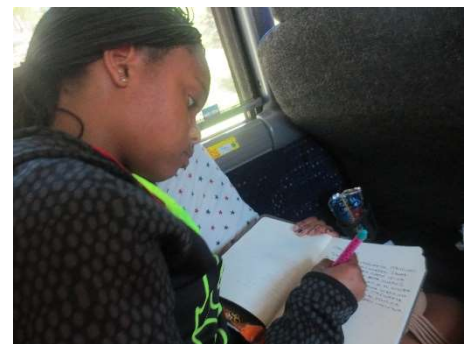
I thought so much about where I will be in 5-10 years. One thing I really thought about the most was the 12 ½ years I spent at Girls Inc. and I get teary eyed every time I think about it. I can remember my first day like it was yesterday. Ms. Fatema walked me to the gym and I can remember me sitting in the 9-10-year-old line and Ms. Nichole was the second person I ever met in my Girls Inc. history. At Girls Inc. I've created many bonds and they can never be broken...My years at Girls Inc. are coming to an end...No matter how far I run, Girls Inc. will always be home. – Nicoletta

I feel like we are all a family. My relationship with the girls has grown so much. I no longer group the South and North girls as two centers but I see us as one. I really enjoy them. – Vonna

Last night, I felt like a hairstylist. I gave Kami a makeover and she's still wearing the hairstyle from last night. I braided Hinde's hair and Asnina's hair. - Desy

Journaling

Thanks to our girlFRIENDS guild for donating the trip journals to the girls. The journaling lets out families and friends learn about the girls' experiences and it also creates a trip souvenir for the girls.



Remember kids, it's always a good time to journal. – Danajah

Ms. Roberta, today you spit nothing but facts with the "suck it up." #SuckItUp - Nicoletta



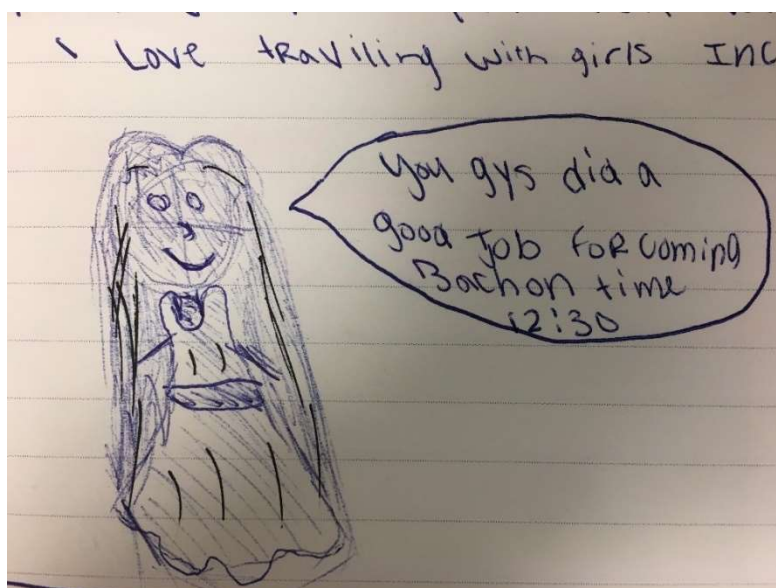
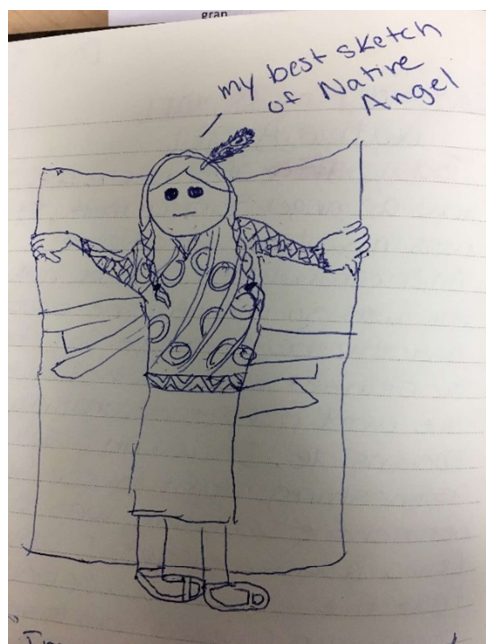
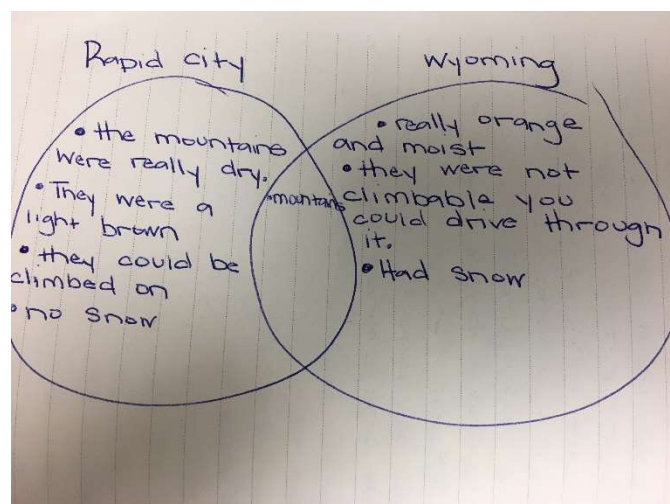
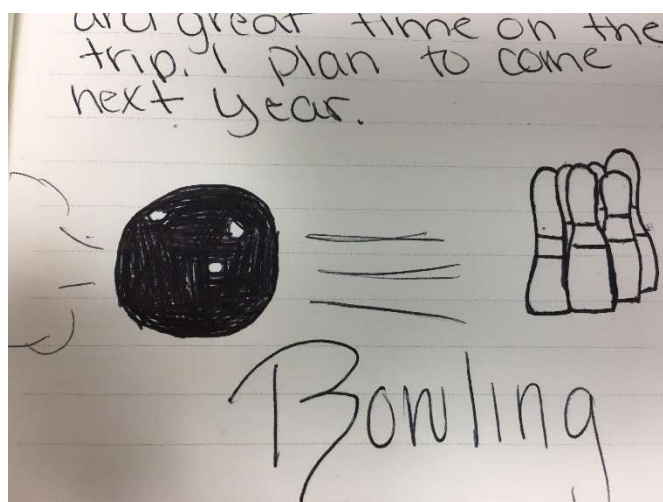
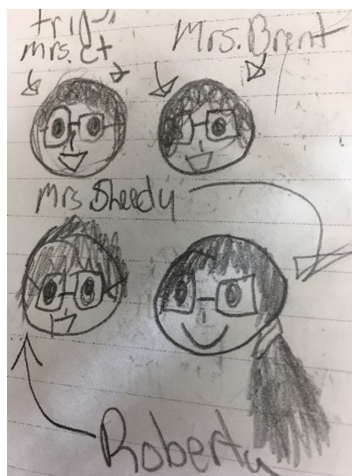
I think I will like writing in the notebook because it gives you time to think about what you are going to write about. It's also peaceful when you write. So that is why I think it is a good thing to write. – Tamia

I love writing but I didn't know I was that good at it...so thank you for reading my writing. – Fardowsa

I am a great journaler and I am proud of that. – Danajah

Ms. Roberta says, "Now is a good time to journal. It's always a good time to journal." - Nicoletta

#AlwaysAGoodTimeToJournal – Ahshay



Trip T-Shirt

When we were walking in the park, people were complimenting on our shirts. To me, the shirts mean is never be quiet. Stay alert and speak up. It's good that young girls are wearing this because it starts when you're young and you get more involved when you start early. And that's what Girls Inc. is about. It's representing that she keeps going even if she has a few bumps in the road. As a Girls Inc. member, I am really proud to wear this shirt. - Taylor

I think our shirts mean that people probably think girls can't do all the hiking and seeing wildlife. But actually, we persisted and we got it done. - Justyce

I think the shirt to me means that you and everybody else need to raise their voices No matter how big or small. It takes on to inspire all and you should always take the first step towards what you think is right. - Hinde

I think the shirts symbolize people using their voice to speak up for things they believe in. In this case, we're helping the parks by telling people to protect nature and the environment. We, as women, have a right to speak up for this important cause. - Famo



To me, the shirt means after every obstacle thrown our way we can still overcome. Whether it's sexism, racism, sexuality confrontations...we will come out on top. We should stand up for what we think is right even if no one else does. That's what sets us apart. That's what makes us powerful to each other. - Destiny

To me "she persisted" means no matter what they said nothing was going to stop her from doing what she wanted to do and she never backed down. She always tried. - Leilani