

Andrea Smaciarz

I was given the opportunity to go to Sioux Falls, South Dakota on June 19th, 2006. We flew out of the SeaTac airport on Monday afternoon and arrived in Sioux Falls at 1:00 Tuesday morning. That day we had the chance to tour the city visiting many historical sights including the Sioux Falls.

Wednesday I was to give my speech to a group of three judges. My speech was given on the many ways calcium benefits you. Also, that night was a state get-together where we gave out items to other states representing our state. We gave out Washington State pins. The following day we were allowed to go on tours, one of which was my favorite the zoo. That night we went to support the local minor league baseball team. They are called the Cardinals. It was dairy night at the ball field. The entertainment during the game was a cow milking contest, milk can rolling, and many other things.

Friday, I was given the opportunity to go to a Hutterite-Brethren colony. I learned about the old way of living and how different it is to my daily life. It was a very interesting experience. On Saturday evening, the awards banquet took place. I did not receive an award, but other Washington State participants did. The Sr. Dairy Bowl Team for example received 4th place and the state banner received 3rd place.

Sunday morning at approximately 9:00, we flew out of the Sioux Falls airport. I met many new friends, some who were from our state, and made priceless memories for which I will never forget. I was lucky to be given the opportunity to go and be apart of such an educational trip.

I learned about the old ways of farming and living from the colony that we toured. I learned about other states and the things they are offered through 4-H and the Holstein association. I was able to observe competition at the national level and I was proud that Washington won some awards with the teams that were representing us.

I competed in the speech competition. I told the others about the importance of getting calcium in your diet and how getting 8 ounces of nonfat or low fat milk 3 times a day can help you loss weight. On Wednesday night when we got together with other states, I handed out Washington 4-H pins to the other states. We discussed how fun 4-H was, and some of the opportunities with Washington State 4-H. I discussed how the Foundation helped support me and my trip financially.