

Dear JSSCC,

I would like to thank you for the opportunity to attend the Sister Cities International Youth Leadership Summit in Virginia Beach this summer. My three classmates and I had a wonderful time at Virginia Wesleyan College where we participated in a mock UN simulation. This involved the fictional countries of Uzan and Hiroot attempting to negotiate a sustainable seafood option.

At the simulation we experienced the struggles that diplomats face as they work. We also learned that patience is required and now understand why diplomacy tends to take so long in real life situations. The experience was extremely beneficial for our group of students as a whole, and was certainly fun, as we got to interact with students from different areas of the United States as well as foreign countries.

Many students in our group were introduced to environmental issues currently affecting our oceans. Building oyster cages was something I was not expecting, but it was actually very fun and informational. We also learned about green energy and environmentally friendly buildings at the Brock Environmental Center, something that we had not really studied in school.

This trip also gave us an opportunity to befriend other students. My roommate was from San Antonio, Texas, and I had another student in my chaperone group from Jamaica. It was an enriching experience, as we learned about each other and had lengthy discussions of how different states and other countries had different schools, shops, and fast food places.

In all, this experience was really beneficial for everyone, as we were able to learn about diplomacy first hand, which we, as students, can apply to our academic life and future careers. I truly am grateful for the scholarship JSSCC granted me and truly enjoyed this experience as a whole.

Many thanks,
Rebecca Jenkins