

**Summer Internship Report 2017**

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Hometown: Austin, Texas



**Office of U. S. Representative Pete Sessions  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C.**

**Provide an overview of the organization/research project and a summary of your responsibilities, tasks, and/or projects.**

I worked as an intern in Congressman Pete Sessions' office this summer in Washington, D.C. Each day, I was assigned to work on committee, tours, or office. On days that I was assigned to committee, I would go to different committee hearings that the staffers could not make it to, and record what happened in the hearing and report back to the staffer. On days that I was assigned to tours, I would work in the office on anything that the other staffers needed, and give tours of the Capitol to Congressman Sessions' constituents. When I was assigned to office duty, I would just sit at a computer all day and answer phones, respond to constituent concerns via mail, and do whatever else the staffers might have needed.

**During your internship, what did you accomplish or how did you make a difference? In what ways did you grow in your professional and technical skills?**

During my internship, I learned to act more professionally at all times. I learned that on the Hill, you never know who will be around you, therefore it is necessary to be cautious about what you say and do at all times. You never know when a member of Congress or a Senator might be in the elevator with you! I feel like I made a difference in the office by always being available to help out the staffers with whatever they needed.

**Describe a problem that you helped to solve at your internship. What skills or knowledge from your education at Sewanee helped you address the problem?**

One day, Congressman Sessions had 15 different Boy Scout Troops from his district come and get tours of the Capitol and the House building as well as meet and take a photo with him. The interns were in charge of the Troops, and I was in charge of the last group to come that day. At the end of the day, the Troops were backed up and running late; I had to fix the schedule so that the Congressman could find time to take a photo with the last Troop and not be late to his Rules

Committee meeting. I was proud of the way I handled this, and I think that my organizational and fast-thinking skills came from my independence at Sewanee.

**In what way were your teamwork skills strengthened?**

My teamwork skills were strengthened in working with my other interns that I did not agree with everything on. Sometimes, the staffers would ask me and another intern to work together on a correspondence letter to a constituent and we would not agree on the wording or content. We were forced to compromise on this and come up with a result that we were both satisfied with.

**How did your internship affect your career plans?**

After my internship, I know for sure that I want to work on the Hill next summer and hopefully post-grad. I loved every day that I was working on the Hill and did not want to leave!

**In what ways did your internship cause you to encounter people of different backgrounds from your own? What steps did you take to communicate effectively with such persons? What did you learn from such persons' perspectives?**

I would give tours of the Capitol around three times a week to constituents from Congressman Sessions' district. Some of these people came from backgrounds different than my own, and during the tour there was a lot of conversation, so I got to hear about many different people's backgrounds. It was interesting because we had Texas in common, but not much else. I loved getting to learn about other people's perspectives.

**Words of advice for future interns (housing, transportation, etc.)?**

I lived in a dorm in the George Washington University and it was pretty gross, I know that most of them are a lot nicer so I would definitely research the exact dorm you sign up for before living there.

**Words of thanks to your internship funding donors:**

Thank you SO much. This was easily the best summer of my life job-wise, I learned so much and had an amazing time working as an intern in Washington, D.C. I could not have done this without your help and I really appreciate it so much!