

My trip to Sioux Falls, South Dakota for the National Junior Holstein Convention Quiz bowl contest was seven days long. We left on a Monday, the nineteenth of June, at three pm on American Airlines. We came back on a Sunday, on the very same airline, as a matter of fact. Those days in between that Monday and that Sunday were full of activity.

The first full day of our stay in South Dakota, Tuesday, was full of sleeping and swimming in the awesome hotel pool with waterslide, because the actual convention activities did not start until Wednesday. We Washingtonians were one of the first groups to arrive at the convention, and it was not until Tuesday evening that we saw other groups start arriving at the hotel. With twenty-five kids, our state had one of the biggest groups there, and we Washington kids, in our snazzy red and white softball shirts, were well known and our buzzer speed feared.

As soon as the convention activities began, I gained an abundance of those educational benefits. Once the competition day came, we studied extra quiz bowl questions during those last nervous moments as we waited in the holding room for our turn to compete. In the actual competition, I learned the answers to some unfamiliar questions, and, more importantly, I learned that someone should have informed one of my teammates about the importance of watching the score and looking for bonus opportunities, because we lost one important round on account of a missed bonus opportunity. Hence the whole teamwork thing would have really come in handy. I also learned on competition day that our senior team was not quite as prepared as they had thought, because there were an abundance of questions involving names, which our senior team had not at all studied. Lastly, I learned on the day of the awards banquet, through a conversation with the Pennsylvania team, that Washington, with its meager selection of kids, was lucky to do as well as it does, considering that Pennsylvania has so many kids who want to go that their tryouts are more competitive than that national contest.

I did not present any information to others during this trip, but when I came home, I presented the information I learned there to my family members and some 4-H friends; and I told them that the Washington 4-H Foundation had sponsored me.

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