

The experience that I had at Girl's State 2003 will be one that I will never forget. I enjoyed getting to know the girls from various parts of the state. I listened intently to the speakers who shared valuable lessons with the girls and myself. I got involved with all that I could, and that made it truly worthwhile.

I was placed in dark City, Davidson County. The girls in my city were from all over the state. We all had our different accents, families and stories to share with one another. As a member in my city, I was elected Color Bearer along with one other girl. Each morning and evening we would march onto the grounds of the CMSU campus and raise or lower the flag. It was quite an honor to be able to participate in this. So many girls watched in wonder as the flag was raised and lowered. I also got to participate in the House of Representatives.

As a member in the House of Representatives, I was able to go to Jefferson City and be sworn in. I also got to visit the Governor's Mansion, sit on the House floor and debate issues and eat a fabulous lunch. I would have to say that this was the highlight of my trip. I enjoyed hearing the debates of the girls. So many of them knew so much about what was going on in our world.

Another thing that stands out in my mind is one speech given to us. It was about being a leader. In essence, every girl that was at Girl's State was a leader. Each girl stood out in her school to be chosen for such an event. The speaker said that as leaders we had a huge responsibility. We were the fixture, and it is ours to do what we want to do. He knew that we would brighten the future and make it a better place.

As a member of Girl's State 2003, I will make the world a better place. I am very grateful for the opportunity to go to such an amazing place. I learned so many things that week. My hope is that I will be able to use those things to enrich the future. Thank you so much for the chance to go and for the opportunity to share with you about my experiences at Girl's State.

Thank you,

Erin Jenkins