



## RPL's *Safe to be Smart* Youth Represent in D.C.!

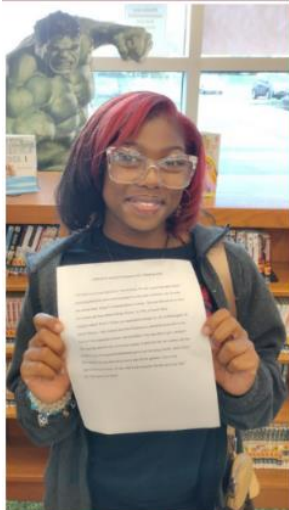
Youth from the *Safe to be Smart* program visited Washington D.C. July 26 – 28, 2024.

The itinerary included the National Museum of African American History and Culture, U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum, White House, Frederick Douglass Statue at the Capitol building's Visitor Center, Library of Congress, Howard University, and Memorials for Lincoln, Martin Luther King Jr. and WWII veterans.

The *Safe to Be Smart* trip to D.C. was funded by Friends & Foundation of the Rochester Public Library through generous support from donors, the Konar Foundation, and Reynolds Library.

*Safe to be Smart* is housed at Central Library downtown and five City branches: Wheatley, Lincoln, Sully, Maplewood, and Arnett. At Central and the branches, the *Safe to be Smart* Library staff provide teens with counseling and mentoring, as well as assistance with homework, employment searches and retention, resume writing and the Internet. The program also provides a safe social environment, with Internet service, games, PlayStation and Wii gaming centers, and listening stations -- as well as activities and events year-round.

FFRPL is a founding sponsor of *Safe to be Smart*, along with Central Library and the City of Rochester.



*"The Safe to be Smart trip to D.C. was amazing.*

*My favorite was seeing many things I've learned about in school.*

*This trip allowed me to meet new people and learn about African History. In 1791, a French black engineer named Pierre L'Enfant was appointed to design the city of Washington.*

*In Jewish History, I also learned about the Holocaust in school but to be able to see more of what happened to them was incredible. I was also able to get a passport-like card that told the life of a Jewish woman. It told how she, her mother, and her children were all exposed to poisonous gasses just for being Jewish. And to know that meant a lot and showed me not to take life for granted.*

*I have a big appreciation for history. It was a trip I will remember for the rest of my life!"*  
-- D'Erickah Love-Reed

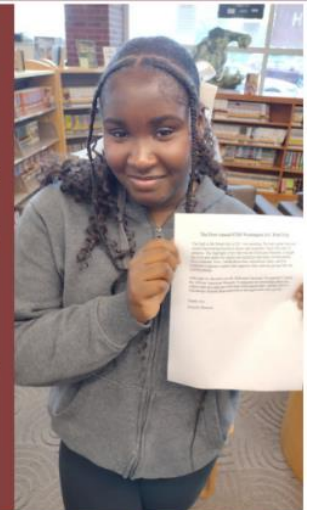
*"The Safe to Be Smart trip to D.C. was amazing. We had a great time and visited fascinating historical places and museums I have only seen in pictures.*

*The highlight of my trip was the Holocaust Museum. It taught me a lot and made me realize the hardships that many Jewish people have endured.*

*Now, I think about their experiences daily, and I'm inspired to pursue a career that supports other minority groups like the Jewish people.*

*Although my favorite was the Holocaust Museum, I'm grateful I visited the African American Museum. It expanded my knowledge about my culture and provided me with more information than I already knew. I will always cherish these experiences and appreciate them greatly."*

Thank you, Zamaria Harmon



*"The Safe to Be Smart trip to D.C. was amazing.*

*We were able to learn more about the Holocaust, African American History, our nation's Capital, and many other things.*

*My favorite place to visit on our tour was the National Museum of African American History and Culture ... it covered the history and many atrocities African Americans have endured from the very beginning of America to the modern day ... Visiting this museum and other museums and historic sites has changed my perspective and outlook on the world around me.*

*I will remember this trip for the rest of my life."* -- Norman Rivet

*"The Safe to be Smart trip to D.C. was fantastic ... My favorite part was getting to see a lot of things about my culture and how the events occurred for African Americans in America from slavery to freedom.*

*Another thing that I also liked about the trip was that some of my peers and I were able to make connections between our school's Global class and the historical museums in Washington D.C.*

*We also were able to visit the Holocaust Museum and see that Jewish people back then also struggled, by having their rights and freedom taken away. One exhibit at the Holocaust Museum that struck me and will stay with me forever was the Lights for the Children. The display featured a wall of countless lights, with each small dot of light representing a child's life. It was an experience I will carry with me for a lifetime."*  
-- Lamarie Felton

