

Youth in Government Day 2013

My name is Mollee Soirez I am from Burke County.

Students from each high school in Burke County and I, got the opportunity to attend this event where we toured government buildings and ate lunch with the County Commissioners.

We first went to the Sheriff's Department. We got to see how they run things like investigations, gun permits, and other various things. We were going to go down to the holding cells but we ran out of time. Then we got to ask the officers questions. We asked about what kind of education you need to hold the different jobs in the Sheriff's department. We visited the GIS/mapping Department and got to see how they make maps of Burke County and learned about land deeds. We visited the tax office; we learned how they deal with taxes and how they deal with people who haven't paid their taxes. We visited the coding and zoning office; we learned what coding is, the different types of coding and zoning there is like home, restaurant, and business. We also learned how they do their job. We went to the polling place; there we learned about the polling machines, a lot of stuff about voting, how youth can get involved, and we learned about early voting registration. We then went to BDI (Burke Development Incorporated) where we learned about what they do to help businesses in Burke County get started. We went to the 911 headquarters; we went inside the control room, talked to the operators, and got to listen in on a call! We learned how they deal with prank calls and hang ups and how they transfer calls to different departments. We also got to see a defused pipe bomb! Then we looked inside an ambulance and talked to the driver and the people who take care of the patient in the ambulance. We learned what they do during the drive and how they keep the patient alive. Then we got to go inside an IT room we learned how you have to keep a controlled environment in the IT room and about the components of the room. We also got to talk to an IT specialist about their job. At all the places we visited we got to ask questions and found out what education you need for each job.

After all our tours it was lunch time with the Commissioners! Each school's represented students had prepared a question for the Commissioners. We asked them different questions about education in Burke County. Like what is Burke County doing to keep up with surrounding counties when it comes to technology? They answered by showing us a video from a previous County Commissioners meeting where they talked about how the board of education is using the money they receive from the county. Not all the questions were able to be answered because of time constraint. This event is very educational and is great for every student to learn how things operate in their county. This was my first time attending this event and I hope to attend it again in the future!