

USS Yorktown

This year we left on Friday July 2, 2010, a day early to go to Camp Daniel Boone so we could stay on the USS Yorktown in Charleston, South Carolina. We arrived at the Aircraft carrier at around 5:00 pm. and were greeted by the volunteers hosting us on the ship. They gave us a short introduction and showed us to our sleeping quarters. The sleeping quarters were the same ones used by sailors and had bunks staked three high. We all got to pick a bunk and stow our stuff. Then we were split into groups to explore the ship.



The USS Yorktown is a WWII aircraft carrier and although not as large as modern aircraft carriers, there was still a vast amount to explore. We went down into the engine room, explored the Kitchen where we saw a recipe for 10,000 chocolate chip cookies requiring 500 eggs. The flight deck was filled with airplanes from different eras and was high above the water.

At 9:30 p.m. we had a mandatory fire drill. By 9:15 p.m. we had to go to our sleeping quarters and when the alarm sounded we all moved in a group to the hanger deck for directions. After the fire drill, we were allowed to go back to what we were doing until "lights out" at 11:00 p.m.

A bugle sounded over the intercom which woke us up at 6:00 am. We ate a quick breakfast in the galley. Then we boarded a ferry and sailed off to Fort Sumter. This is where the first shots of the Civil war were fired. Although the fort was fired upon by canons for hours, only one person was killed, and that was only because a cannon accidentally blew up after the union soldiers surrendered. We explored Ft. Sumter for an hour before we took the boat back to the USS Yorktown.

When we docked, the Scouts quickly made their way to the ship's store and bought various items such as dead ammo rounds, sailor hats, and other trinkets. We were given box lunches and then met with an oceanographer who taught us the oceanography merit badge class which took place on the docks around the ship and finally finished at the lab inside the ship.

For the rest of the day we were free to explore all areas of the Yorktown. Some of us visited the Medal of Honor Museum which was located on the hanger deck of the ship. The museum explained what the Medal of Honor is, what it is awarded for, and had the names all of the recipients. The Medal of Honor is the highest military award earned by US soldiers, airmen and sailors for bravery above and beyond the call of duty.



In the evening, some of us took a walk off the ship to visit the Vietnam Park located near the parking lot, which had some old Vietnam helicopters, trucks and guns. After that we ate dinner, took showers, and packed up for the next day's trip. On July 3, 2010 we all woke up bright and early at six in the morning. We came down to eat a quick breakfast and then we loaded the bus and headed out for Camp Daniel Boone.

By: Timothy McN.