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Girls on the Go

A group of 14 local teens from Girls Inc. of Carpinteria had a once-in-a-lifetime trip to Washington, D.C., last week.

The young ladies had a packed schedule in the nation's capital, meeting local representatives and senators, including Congresswoman **Lois Capps** and senators **Barbara Boxer** and **Dianne Feinstein**, to discuss youth mentoring, grants, STEM legislation, and immigration.



Girls Inc. of Carpinteria students in front of the Capitol in Washington

They also spent time at the Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History, the Air & Space Museum, and toured the D.C. offices of Microsoft and Google, as well as the Capitol building, the Holocaust Museum, and the campus of George Washington University.

For many of the participants, the trip was their first time flying on a plane and staying in an hotel.

"Our programs are designed to expose girls at a young age to strong, smart, and bold female role models and diverse career paths, including government and policy makers, so they can begin envisioning their own paths to success and establishing life goals," says executive director **Victoria Juarez**.

"The girls were beyond excited to get out of their comfort zones and discover the city where world-changing decisions are made every day."