

# CARPINTERIA Coastal View News

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**Local girls take in the sights and sounds of Washington D.C. during a recent trip with Girls Inc.**

#### Girls Inc. goes to Washington

Ten local girls recently returned from an inspiring trip to the nation's capital as part of Girls Inc. of Carpinteria's Eureka! program, a five-year, college-bound program that aims to break gender stereotypes and encourages girls to step outside their comfort zones, and discover different career paths and fields. The teens met and lobbied with local representatives on issues important to them, an experience that gave the young women opportunity to take ownership of their voices and opinions.

"I felt inspired because I've never felt so strongly about an issue and have had the confidence to say it," shared 16-year-old Ana, one of the participants. "I also learned to open myself up to new adventures and get exposed to new places because that makes you a more informed person."

For many of the participants, this trip was their first time flying on an airplane, leaving the state and staying in a hotel. During the five days, the teens, along with Girls Inc. staff, also explored museums including the Smithsonian and the Holocaust Museum, toured the campus at George Washington University, and visited local sites and monuments.