

KDS Senior Student Attends Alabama Governor's School

The Alabama Governor's School is a summer residential honors program sponsored by Samford University, the State of Alabama, and private sources. The program was established in 1987 as the Alabama Honors Academy at Samford University and patterned after Governor's schools in other southern states. The Alabama Governor's School provides academic, creative, and leadership experiences for a limited number of rising high school seniors who have demonstrated exceptional ability and achievement in their studies.

KDS seniors Drew Altman and Alayna Rice were selected to represent KDS at the 2019 Alabama Governor's School. They each chose one morning and one afternoon seminar which focused on hands-on, experiential learning. The seminars are led by leading academic, business, and community experts in their fields.

Drew shared, "In the American Healthcare class, I experienced the various possibilities that the medical field has to offer through guest speakers, shadowing at a local hospital, and hands-on training. During the program, I discovered an interest in psychology and counseling."

"My experience at Samford University has shaped the way I think and who I aspire to be. Some of my favorite memories are wading in a creek with my research science class to collect the biodiversity index," said Alayna. "Along with the valuable skills I learned through the many classes and seminars, I gained relationships that I know will last for life."

The selection process for Alabama Governor's School is highly competitive. Once nominated by a local school official, a panel of distinguished educators carefully screens all candidates. Selections are based on the panel's recommendations.



KDS Seniors Alayna Rice and Drew Aultman at Alabama Governor's School at Samford University in Birmingham, Alabama.



Drew and Alayna with their AGS classmates at Regions Field for a Birmingham Barons game

Drew said, "I am so honored to have attended AGS and so thankful for my sponsorship. I am now connected to many like-minded people who are destined to do great things for the state of Alabama and the United States of America. When the brightest minds of Alabama are put together for two weeks, only the best can come out of it," said Drew. "I can easily say that AGS has been one of the greatest, most influential, most encouraging experiences of my life."

The cost of the students' tuition fees for Alabama Governor's School were generously sponsored by the General Sumter Chapter, NSDAR, of Birmingham, Alabama.

Alayna said, "I'd like to thank the DAR for sponsoring me and for the tremendous impact they've had on my life."

Drew and Alayna enjoyed a life-changing 13 days at Alabama Governor's School.

