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Queen of Peace students reflect on attending the Presidential Inauguration

Queen of Peace High School frosh Mallorie Kaput of Bridgeview didn't support President Barack Obama in the school's mock election, but that didn't affect her desire to attend the incoming President's Inauguration Jan. 20 in Washington D.C.

"I wanted to see history being made," said Mallorie, who attended the inauguration with several other Illinois students involved in the People to People organization. "Some day I will be able to tell my grandchildren that I was there."

Mallorie loves history and is a fan of Abraham Lincoln. When she learned President Obama would be sworn in with Lincoln's Bible, she was even more excited about attending because of the historical significance.

Three other Peace students also attended the inauguration with the Presidential Youth Inaugural Conference, a division of the National Young Leaders Conference.

Sophomores Lindsey Frederick and Savana Martin and frosh Allison Janozik, all supporters of President Obama, said the trip was an opportunity of a lifetime.

"Now I can say I was there when our country took its biggest step forward since Martin Luther King. This was an amazing experience and one that I will never forget. When President Obama took the oath of office, it felt like everything was peaceful and right," Lindsey said.

Watching America's first African-American President take the oath of office was inspiring for Allison.

“It was really exciting to possibly have a chance to meet the person you supported in the school election,” Allison added.

Savana, who is the sophomore class president at Peace, said she is hopeful that this experience will help her grow as a class leader.

“I feel that President Obama has a lot of good qualities that our country needs in such a tough time,” Savana said. “I was proud to represent Peace along with other outstanding students from our school.”