



The First and Second Ladies both have a good sense of humor, and they were easy to talk to.

My Visit to the White House

As a kid reporter, I interviewed the First and Second Ladies.

By Maggie McDow, Age 12, Ohio

A few months ago, I had the chance to go to the White House to interview Michelle Obama and Jill Biden. I was very excited and a little bit nervous. I spent a lot of time figuring out what questions I was going to ask, and I talked to kids at my school about it.

When the big day arrived, I kept thinking about my questions with nervous anticipation. My dad and I flew to Washington, D.C., and we stayed in a hotel. The next morning, we visited the Lincoln Memorial and the Vietnam

Veterans Memorial.

Soon it was time to go to the White House! As the taxi drove us toward 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, I went over my questions again.

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White House, so we had to hustle all the way around the block to find the correct entrance.

First Impressions

As we walked through the doors, the smell of paper fresh off the printer rushed into my nose. We passed through a busy hallway with caterers pushing carts of food and then down a long hallway with pictures of the First Family on the walls. When we walked into a cozy room with three other kid reporters, I knew

we were finally there.

On the table were water bottles, apples, and a notepad and pen for each reporter. For 15 minutes we waited and talked to each other. I felt both excited and nervous. Then the First and Second Ladies walked in!

My first impression was that Mrs. Obama is tall! (She is 5 feet 11 inches, I found out later.) She and Dr. Biden came over and shook our hands before sitting down and beginning the conversation. The other reporters and I took turns asking questions.

Life in the White House

To start, one of the kids asked them about their greatest accomplishments of the first term. Mrs. Obama said hers was helping her daughters adjust to life in Washington and making sure they didn't feel like they were "second fiddle" to their dad's job. She said it's important that Malia and Sasha have a normal life—playing sports, going to birthday parties, doing their best in school, having rules, and being polite and respectful and kind. She said, "As a mom, that's what I think about every single day."

Helping Military Families

During the interview, I was sitting right beside Dr. Biden. She said her greatest accomplishment has been working with and helping military families, since she is a military mom and grandmom. She and Mrs. Obama started Joining Forces, a program to help kids, families, spouses, and parents who have a family member serving our country.

Now was the perfect time for me to ask my first question! "What advice do you have for military and other kids who have to move

around a lot?" I asked. Dr. Biden said it can help to join a sports team or get involved with school activities. She also said to let a teacher know if you have a parent in the military. Then the teacher could encourage the other students to show their support.

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Favorite National Parks

Another reporter asked about their favorite national parks. Mrs. Obama said when she was a kid her family stayed close to home because driving was hard for her father, who had multiple sclerosis. Three years ago, she got to see the Grand Canyon. "So that's my number-one park!" she said.

Dr. Biden said her favorite is Everglades National Park in Florida because she's a "beach girl."

Secret Service "Students"

I asked Dr. Biden about the biggest change in her life since becoming the Second Lady. She said it's having Secret Service agents with her, especially while she is at work teaching English at a community college. Her Secret Service agents dress like students so that they blend in. It must work, because some of her students didn't know that she is the Second Lady. One student said, "Dr. B., I thought I saw you on TV with Michelle Obama, but my mom said it couldn't be you because the lady on TV was the Vice President's wife!"

When I left the White House, I realized that I had met two very special people. The First and Second Ladies are someone's child, someone's sibling, someone's parent, and in the case of Dr. Biden, someone's grandparent. That day, I learned that people who are in a special position are not so different from the rest of us. 🙌



The other kid reporters and I had our photo taken with Dr. Biden and Mrs. Obama. I'm the one wearing yellow.