

Please meet our first contributor to our youth page.

Name: Karen Swain

Born: Dec 31, 1985

I've always been interested in United States and World history because I knew that one day my life and the lives of my fellow Americans would one day be written about in a history text book. "Living History" as Hillary Clinton put it best. I started becoming politically involved for the Democratic party by volunteering as a phone banker during the 2000 Presidential Election. During this time I was a Freshman in High school and I invested a lot of emotions into getting Al Gore elected as President. Tears just didn't give justice to the way I felt when Florida was declared Blue based on exit poles and then given to Bush.

As a Junior in high school I got the opportunity to attend the "Close-Up" trip to Washington D.C. It was an interesting experience because I got to meet and debate with students from all over the nation with different views and beliefs. As I visited the Jefferson, Lincoln, and FDR memorials I felt proud to be an American because the sacrifices these men contributed to my country cannot be forgotten. Another thing I took home from that trip D.C was the emotions I felt when visiting the various war memorials. As a daughter of a Marine veteran from Vietnam, it was an experience hard to describe as I looked at walls of the names of soldiers killed in combat that seemed to never end. As the War in Iraq is starting to resemble the Vietnam War, I said to myself: "My generation cannot let this happen again." This trip inspired me to continue political activism in my home state of California and fight to protect the democracy of the U.S