

To those who made the trip of a lifetime a reality, I never imagined I would be one of those 25 kids chosen to go to L.A. And honestly, I didn't think I really deserved it. My chemo only lasted 12 weeks, radiation just under four. I didn't get sick, and I only had to get a transfusion twice. I felt that I was very lucky in terms of side effects. The only painful thing I suffered was the loss of my hair. At most times, I felt it was harder on my family than it was on me. But the fact of the matter is, I didn't think I would fit in. When I got to L.A., I met so many kids from all across the country. And after getting to know the other kids, talking to them felt natural. They made me realize that no matter how much you went through, how long your treatment was, what side effects you got, or even what type of cancer you were diagnosed with, we're all in the same boat. It wasn't about who had the worst experiences. We were faced with something that no child should ever have to be put through. But let me tell you, we are different people because of it. They inspire me, every one of them. Not just because I know what they went through, but because of the courage and strength they have. Each and every one of us kids were handpicked. Not only to fight this disease and beat it, but we were handpicked to go on that trip to have the time of our lives, forget about the problems back home, and become a family of our own. Thanks to you, we were able to accomplish all of those things plus many more. I cannot express how grateful I am to have been one of those kids. I'm truly amazed at how far you will go out of your way for us. I honestly can't say it enough; thank you, for everything. It meant the world to me to be a part of the family for a week.

Love The Sunshine Kid,  
Kennedy Grzeskiewicz <3