

NRECA YOUTH TOUR

*The Experience of
a Lifetime!*



Rural Electric Youth Tour History

- It has been shaping our Youth for 52 years in 2016.
- The Youth Tour was born in from a speech at the 1957 NRECA Annual Meeting by then Senator Lyndon B. Johnson. Thanks to his encouragement, that same year Texas electric co-ops began sending summer interns to work in the senator's Washington D.C. office.
- In 1958 Iowa and Illinois sponsored groups young people to go on a weeklong study tour of the nation's capital. The idea grew and other states sent busloads of students throughout the summer. By 1959 the Tour had grown to 130 participants.

Youth Tour and Cooperative Principles

1. Voluntary and Open Membership
2. Democratic Member Control
3. Members' Economic Participation
4. Autonomy and Independence
5. *Education, Training, and Information*
6. *Cooperation Among Cooperatives*
7. *Concern for Community*

Participating in the Youth Tour supports several of these principles.

The NRECA Got Involved

- In 1964 the NRECA began to coordinate joint activities among the state delegations and suggested that cooperative representatives from each state arrange to be in Washington D.C., during Youth Tour week. The first year of the coordinated tour included about 400 teens from 12 states. As the word spread, the program grew-and grew and grew until no hotel was large enough to house all of the participants.
- Since then, more than 50,000 young Americans from 47 states have taken advantage of this special opportunity offered by their electric cooperative.
- Last year, we had 500 rooms at the Hyatt in Crystal City, Va., and 200 rooms at the Hilton to house all 1,600 kids that participated last year.

Your Investment

- The investment for one student is \$2,500.00. The cooperative pays for 100% of the student's way. This includes hotel, airfare, all meals, snacks, tours and bus transportation while in D.C.
- The investment for a chaperone is \$3,310.00. The chaperones do not share a room with the students. It is \$800 more because each chaperone has their own room, unlike the students, who have four people to a room.
- Several cooperatives can share one or two chaperones and save money by doing this. I have chaperoned the past 3 years and Tanner and Big Bend and we split the total expense between our two utilities.

The Specifics

- The Youth Tour Scholarship is only open to high school juniors and seniors. You must be at least 16 ½ years old, a full time dependent of a cooperative member and starting your junior year when you apply.
- The program director for our region is Melinda Torgerson, from Koosharem, Utah. She has been coordinating this event with for over 30 years. Her husband Don Torgerson served on the NRECA Board of Directors and got her involved in all of this. She is the mother of six children and is well experienced!

- Alaska, Idaho, Nevada, Utah and Washington all meet in Utah to get acquainted. We travel together the next day to Washington D.C. where we meet up with Colorado, Wyoming and Oregon. We all spend the next 7 days together as one group as we take the students on the educational trip of a lifetime.
- This year there will be 71 students and 15 chaperones from our region attending the Youth Tour. Once in D.C. there will be over 1,700 students combined in one place for the Youth Day festivities.

Schedule

This is the typical schedule for just one day.....(try seven)

- Chaperones make wake up calls at 6:00 a.m.
- 7:30 Load the bus
- 8:00 breakfast in Mt Vernon
- 8:45 Mt. Vernon Mansion tour
- Noon Box lunches and eat on bus
- 12:45 Iwo Jima Memorial
- 1:45 National Cathedral
- 3:45 Group photo in front of the White House
- 4:30 Martin Luther King Memorial, FDR Memorial, Jefferson Memorial
- 6:30 Load the bus for dinner... at the Pentagon City Mall
- 8:30 Return to hotel for evening meeting on the events and memories of the day.
- 10:00 Students go to their rooms and chaperones do room checks.

Other Educational Sights We Travel To...

- Air Force Memorial
 - Einstein Statue
 - Viet Nam Memorial (The Wall)
 - Lincoln Memorial
 - Korean War Memorial
 - WWII Memorial
 - Washington Monument
 - Pentagon Memorial
 - Arlington Cemetery
 - Holocaust Museum
 - Union Station
 - Smithsonian Museums
 - National Archives
 - U.S Marine Corps Sunset Parade
- As you can see every day is a full schedule!**

Youth Leadership Council (YLC)

- During the Youth Tour one student will be selected from each state to be on the NRECA YLC. He or she will have the opportunity to return to Washington, D.C. the following July to attend a leadership workshop. The sponsoring cooperative will pay for the winning delegate's return trip. (Airfare only the NRECA picks up the hotel and meal expense)
- The purpose of the YLC conference is to build leadership and public speaking skills and enhance the delegates' knowledge of the energy industry, as well as learn more about the cooperative form of business.

Mission

- Reward students for academic achievement and community leadership;
- Educate students about the role of electric cooperatives in the national economy;
- Foster students' appreciation for the democratic form of government;
- Expose students to the sights and sounds of our nations heritage; and
- Build students' leadership skills so that they may make a difference in their communities

Challenge to You

- I challenge each one of you to go back to your cooperative and share this with your Board of Directors, GM's, CEO's, CFO's.
- It only takes one, talk about making this scholarship opportunity available for just one youth in your community.
- Let's all work together and focus on adding one or two more co-ops to the Washington state participation list for the Youth Tour in 2017.

DC 2015 Video by Neil Brown (Utah)

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f4t36rPPBPg&feature=youtu.be>

Educating and Developing Tomorrow's Cooperative Leaders.

- *Aspirethem to be more*
- *Believein their abilities*
- *Commit....to a higher standard*
- *Dreamhelp them be out of the ordinary*