



Bright Futures Ahead – Your Co-op and Youth Tour

This month, we are proud to highlight our Washington Youth Tour 2013 participants. Each year, Coweta-Fayette EMC and cooperatives throughout the nation sponsor impressive, talented young leaders of tomorrow as they make a trip to Washington D.C. These bright teens talk to legislators, visit monuments and museums and experience independence in a city where so many important decisions are made.

Youth Tour participants also gain knowledge from the opportunity to mingle with a diverse group of participants from every geographic region of the U.S. All attendees quickly identify their differences, but more importantly, they discover what unifies them as they build lifelong friendships. Delegates learn what is necessary to achieve progress and a greater quality of life, as well as how to accomplish goals by listening and compromise, not betraying one's principles.

I would like to relay a humorous story one Youth Tour participant once told me. She said she had the greatest experience of her whole life and could not think of anything that motivated her more to succeed and make a difference. She also told me that because she had a strong southern drawl, some of the northern youth teased her about the way she talked. But she got them back... by convincing those same kids that grits grew on trees. I could not help but laugh when she shared this with me. This same young lady agreed to talk to a couple of civic clubs about her Youth Tour experience, and while we have some excellent communications staff members within the cooperatives, I have never seen a message conveyed so well. I was extremely proud that our co-op was able to provide this great leader of tomorrow a catalyst to achieve her dreams.

Shifting to cooperative business, I am pleased to relay that new subdivisions were developed and new commercial businesses moved into our area in the last half of 2013. With the

addition of many outstanding healthcare facilities and the debut of Pinewood Studios, we are truly in the right place at the right time. I think the "Prosperity's Front Door" rally call is 100 percent appropriate.

Over the past few years, we have built an electric distribution system with a solid backbone and have employed smart grid technology to put Coweta-Fayette EMC in a great position to serve new and existing loads in an exemplary manner for quite some time. I sometimes quote the Boy Scout slogan, "Be prepared." You can rest assured we are prepared and ready to serve our

Members well—from individual residences to large industrial sites—with expertise and professionalism.

And with preparation in mind, we have also set a goal for our co-op to fully explore what energy efficiency and conservation programs might be developed or expanded in 2014 to best benefit our Members now that our economic outlook is looking brighter. It is always good to review what has worked well in the past, but it is equally important to analyze any new opportunities to serve you better that become available, from the advent of new technologies to building material specifications and the development of smart appliances.

We want to be your most reliable resource when you make decisions about remodeling or building a home or business. Before midyear 2014, we hope to provide even more value to our Members in regard to energy efficiency and conservation. One of the best ways for us to be good environmental stewards is to utilize energy in the most efficient way possible. We look forward to serving you to an even higher degree in the coming year. Our goal, as always, is to provide exceptional value to you, our neighbor and Member.

For the Team,

Anthony H. Sinclair "Tony"
Anthony H. Sinclair "Tony"

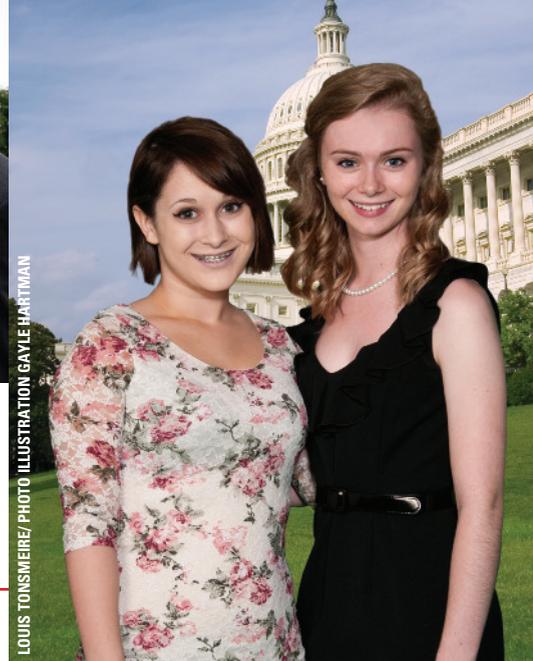




BYRON MCCOMBS



DANIEL PECK STUDIOS



LOUIS TONSMEIRE/PHOTO ILLUSTRATION GAYLE HARTMAN

Be Part of the 2014 Washington Youth Tour



Attention, high school students: Here are some of the reasons to get excited about the Washington Youth Tour (WYT):

- ★ Meet in Atlanta and spend a great week in Washington, D.C., and its environs, taking in many of that historic city's iconic locations, museums, memorials and monuments.
- ★ Make more than 100 new friends from every part of Georgia, all of them your age or within a year or

two. The friendships you form can last a lifetime.

- ★ Meet WYT participants from across the country and even take a boat ride on the Potomac River with some other states' delegates.
- ★ Taste the cultural scene with several stops, including a theater performance.
- ★ Meet your U.S. senators and representatives on their turf—the U.S. Capitol—and get a glimpse into how laws are made.
- ★ Stay on the go from early morning until late at night—and love every minute of it.
- ★ Work as part of a team and develop leadership skills that will serve you well, no matter what career you pursue.
- ★ Learn about the beginning of rural electrification and visit its birthplace.

Tentative 2014 itinerary

- June 12:** Kickoff banquet, Georgia International Convention Center, Atlanta
- June 13:** Little White House, Warm Springs; team-building at Woodward Academy, Atlanta; flight to Washington, D.C.
- June 14:** Tour and lunch at Mount Vernon; dinner at Union Station; evening guided tour of FDR, Jefferson, Martin Luther King Jr., World War II memorials; photo op of White House
- June 15:** Guided tour of Lincoln, Korean War and Vietnam Veterans memorials; Arlington National Cemetery guided tour, with wreath-laying at Tomb of the Unknowns; tour of Fort McHenry, Baltimore, Md.; tour of historic ships, Baltimore; dinner at Hard Rock Café
- June 16:** All States 50th anniversary celebration event; tour Smithsonian museums; cruise on Potomac River
- June 17:** Tour Supreme Court, U.S. Capitol and Washington National Cathedral; Sunset Parade at U.S. Marine Corps War Memorial (Iwo Jima statue)
- June 18:** Meet with Georgia's congressional delegation; tour Newseum and Madame Tussauds Wax Museum; dinner at performance of "The Lion King" at the Kennedy Center
- June 19:** Return flight to Atlanta

Note: Itinerary subject to change



BYRON MCCOMBS

Coweta-Fayette EMC delegates Jamie Callison, front left, and Kit Matheny, front right, tour the Lincoln Memorial with new friends.

Above: Above: Kit Matheny, of Newnan, and Jamie Callison, of Fayetteville, represented Coweta-Fayette EMC on the 2013 Washington Youth Tour.

Top left: Washington Youth Tour delegates from Georgia's Third Congressional District meet with U.S. Rep Lynn Westmoreland.

Top middle: Appropriately attired in a red, white and blue bowtie, Washington EMC delegate Austin Browning listens to U.S. Sen. Saxby Chambliss.

- ★ Learn about the role of Georgia's electric cooperatives, sponsors of the tour.
- ★ Have a great accomplishment to put on your college applications.
- ★ Have fun!

The 2014 Washington Youth Tour, set for June 12-19, starts in Atlanta, where delegates—rising high school seniors, juniors or recent graduates—representing electric membership corporations (EMCs) from throughout the state gather for kick-off events. After a day in Georgia, it's off to the nation's capital, where the schedule is jam-packed until the return flight.

Delegates on the 2013 WYT had the time of their lives, as these photos and personal accounts of their trip show. Now, electric co-ops across Georgia are looking for delegates to represent them on the 2014 tour. Interested? Contact your EMC to see how local students are chosen.



In their own words ...

The 2013 Washington Youth Tour

Above: Shown here at Mount Vernon, delegates form bonds with other teens from across the state.
Left: Jamie and Kit pose in front of the Little White House in Warm Springs.

Lessons in leadership



Lewis Bannister, *Hart EMC, Hartwell*
 A leap of faith goes a long way and might open doors that you may have not imagined possible. 😊



Kit Matheny, *Coweta-Fayette EMC, Palmetto*
 You shouldn't be scared to speak out when someone needs back up. Like . 👍



Blaize Burley, *Washington EMC, Sandersville*
 After learning about the leaders of our country, I realized that these leaders were ordinary people who did extraordinary things. Like . 👍



Cecilia Cerja, *Flint Energies, Reynolds*
 A leader should have complete candor with their future constituents since honest answers add to their credibility. Like . 👍



Jamie Callison, *Coweta-Fayette EMC, Palmetto*. I learned leadership requires more than an extensive resume. Being a leader is all about relating to your peers on a personal level and earning respect through friendship. No matter how impressive your accomplishments may be, there will always be a deeper trust through personal relationships. Like . 👍



Sam Park, *Carroll EMC, Carrollton*
 No matter how deep a rivalry or difference in views, one can always respect their opponent. Like . 👍

Favorite activity or tour stop



Jamie Callison, *Coweta-Fayette EMC, Palmetto*. Visiting Fort McHenry, the spot that inspired our national anthem, was such a memorable experience. Everyone began to swell with patriotism as we listened to "The Star-Spangled Banner," and proudly watched our flag fly. Like . 👍



Grace Curtis, *Diverse Power, LaGrange*
 To fully comprehend the compassion, sorrow, respect and pride that inspired the creation of the monuments and memorials, you have to see them in person. Like . 👍



Emma Faulk, *Little Ocmulgee EMC, Alamo*
 When I first heard of the casualties of war laid to rest in Arlington National Cemetery, it seemed like just a number. But when I saw the actual graves, I finally understood the true cost of war. Like . 👍



Kit Matheny, *Coweta-Fayette EMC, Palmetto*. I loved dinner at the Hard Rock. I had the best time singing and dancing with the *best* people! Like . 👍

Advice for future delegates



Savannah Beck, *Blue Ridge Mountain EMC, Young Harris*. Don't be shy. Everyone else is nervous about meeting new people. Enjoy yourself and reach out to all these new people. Like . 👍



Jordan Bosworth, *Upsom EMC, Thomaston*
 Even though you may come from a small town, you can make a difference. Like . 👍



'Sharing Success' Program Awards EMC, Fayette CARE Clinic Matching Grant

In an effort to assist the Fayette CARE Clinic in promoting the health and well-being of Fayette County's uninsured and working poor, Coweta-Fayette EMC recently applied for and was granted funding through CoBank – a financial partner of the cooperative – and its "Sharing Success" charitable contribution program.

"Choosing the Fayette CARE Clinic as our non-profit recipient was easy; the tremendous work they do in our service territory each day is the hard part," said EMC CEO Anthony "Tony" Sinclair. "Coweta-Fayette's portion of the grant was the least we could do given the sheer volume of people this organization helps in Fayetteville and our surrounding communities. We hope CoBank's matching funds will assist the clinic as they continue to fill the gaps in our healthcare system."

According to Fayette CARE Clinic Executive Director Sheryl Watford, the much-needed funding will be used to increase visitor care hours and help with healthcare costs for between 75–100 patients. The clinic – now located in an expanded facility at 1260 Highway 54 West, Suite 204 in Fayetteville – offers medical, dental, vision, dermatology, cardiology, physical therapy, gynecology, chiropractic care, education, prevention and referrals providing a gateway to other community services.

A non-profit organization run entirely on private/public donations and mostly on volunteers, the Fayette CARE Clinic provides preventive care with compassion and respect to create a healthier community and reduce the potential of a health crisis. Skilled, licensed healthcare providers volunteer their services toward a variety of needs in the new office, which features eight medical rooms, plus three dental rooms and a large conference area that will be shared for community events.

"Shared success has always been a hallmark of the cooperative business model," said CoBank Vice President Kurt Morris. "Throughout rural America, cooperatives are working not only to provide value to their members, but to improve the quality of life in their local communities. We are delighted to join with you in support of such a worthy cause."

SOLID LIGHTING SOLUTIONS

LEDs meet (and exceed) 2014 lighting efficiency standards

A new year calls for updated lightbulb efficiency guidelines. No need to use bulbs with a twist; light-emitting diodes (LEDs) can help you switch on savings.

Congress called for improved energy efficiency standards for traditional incandescent bulbs under the federal Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007. By 2014, lightbulbs using between 40-W to 100-W must consume at least 28 percent less energy than classic bulbs. The change will save Americans an estimated \$6 billion to \$10 billion in lighting costs annually.

When the next wave of standards kicks in next month, traditional 40-W and 60-W incandescents will no longer be available. In their place, some consumers are filling the gap with a solid solution: LEDs.

LEDs offer several benefits:

- LEDs could last longer, perhaps for decades
- The energy to use LEDs could be substantially less than that of compact fluorescent lamps (CFLs) or other fluorescents
- With no mercury content, LEDs are more environmentally friendly
- The products are rugged and more resistant to breakage
- LEDs can be dimmed and produce a more pleasing light

However, some consumers avoid LEDs because the price tag exceeds normal lightbulb costs. But the true value lies in the lifetime of the bulb. It takes about 50 traditional incandescent bulbs, or eight to ten CFLs, to last as long as one LED lamp.

Buyer Beware

Poor quality LED products are flooding the marketplace. Some are manufactured outside of the United States with components that produce low light levels, don't boast a long service life, or make exaggerated energy saving claims. Don't be fooled. Look for the U.S. Department of Energy's ENERGY STAR logo for guaranteed color quality over time, steady light output over the lifetime, high efficiency and a warranty.

You can also look for an LED Lighting Facts label. The label helps consumers compare products to manufacturer claims and similar products with a quick summary of performance in five areas.

Due to a mandate from Congress, lighting efficiency will be 70 percent more efficient by 2020.

Sources: *The Association of Electrical Equipment and Medical Imaging Manufacturers, U.S. Department of Energy, Cooperative Research Network*

