



2023 WASHINGTON YOUTH TOUR



June 15-22, 2023

The Washington Youth Tour is an opportunity for high school students to learn more about our nation's capital alongside classmates and friends throughout Georgia. It is an all-expenses-paid trip on behalf of Georgia's electric membership cooperatives (EMCs). All courtesy of Coweta-Fayette EMC.

Applications Due By February 17, 2023.

Visit www.utility.org/washington-youth-tour for more information.



Georgia EMC

Representing Georgia's Electric Cooperatives



Coweta-Fayette

What is Youth Tour?

Washington Youth Tour is an opportunity for high school students to learn more about our nation's capital alongside classmates and friends throughout Georgia. It is an all-expenses-paid trip on behalf of Georgia's electric membership cooperatives (EMCs).

Once a year, high school students are selected by the electric cooperatives in Georgia to represent our state as delegates on the Washington Youth Tour.

This top-notch leadership experience and tour of Washington, D.C., includes meetings with state and national leaders and leadership training, as well as visits to all the major sights.

Participants join over 1,400 other high school students from around the nation who visit every June, year after year, from towns and cities all over America for one incredible week in our nation's capital.

They come because their EMC's think education is important — education about electric cooperatives and education about America.

For more than 50 years, electric cooperatives across Georgia have recognized outstanding high school students by providing a valuable leadership experience for exceptional teens through the Washington Youth Tour.



From left, Niyah Cameron of Whitewater High School; and Jack Terrell of Newnan High School, representing Coweta-Fayette EMC on the 2022 Washington Youth Tour.

Are you a leader in your high school, your community or your place of worship?
Do you enjoy spending time planning projects and giving your time to help others? Want to meet more teens just like you?

> **Leadership**

> **Networking**

> **Experiences**



CALLING ALL HIGH SCHOOL JUNIORS! APPLY BY FEBRUARY 17, 2023.

Coweta-Fayette EMC is offering a unique experience for students who are leaders in their high schools, communities, places of worship, or academic and community organizations through the Washington Youth Tour! The co-op is searching for students who enjoy spending time planning projects, volunteering and meeting others from across the state to apply.

Geared up to make new friends, explore museums and monuments, meet your legislators and have fun?

Apply for the Washington Youth Tour now!

Goals of the tour are to provide the opportunity for outstanding young people to:

- Increase their understanding of the value of rural electrification;
- Become more familiar with the historical and political environment of the nation's capital through visits to monuments, government buildings and cooperative organizations; and
- Visit elected officials to increase their knowledge of how the federal government works.

During the seven-day Washington Youth Tour (WYT), which is scheduled June 15-22, students from electric membership cooperatives (EMCs) throughout Georgia may have a chance to visit some of the most exciting tourist spots in our nation's capital. Here are some of the places students may visit during the 2022 WYT:

- Arlington National Cemetery
- Lincoln Memorial
- Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial
- Smithsonian Institution
- Mount Vernon



Follow along with Niyah & Jack on the 2022 Washington Youth Tour!

Am I eligible to compete?

High school juniors who live and attend school in one of the counties served by Coweta-Fayette EMC are eligible to participate in the competition. These counties include: **Clayton, Coweta, Fayette, Heard, Meriwether, Spalding, South Fulton and Troup.**

How are the participants selected?

Those individuals interested in participating are required to complete the application and submit an essay. All entries will be reviewed for eligibility. Two applicants will then be selected to participate and attend the upcoming 2023 Washington Youth Tour.

What happens if I am selected?

You'll join other students from across Georgia on an all-expenses paid trip to Washington DC. This year's tour will be held June 15-22, 2023.

What is an EMC?

EMC stands for Electric Membership Corporation. A cooperative is a business enterprise which is jointly owned and equally controlled by those who use it. It is a form of business more interested in service to people than in making dollars, though it must, of course, take in enough money to pay its way.

How does an EMC operate?

Each year, the EMC holds an annual meeting where the member-owners elect a board of directors. Directors are the policy-making and supervisory branch of the cooperative. They make sure the cooperative is run correctly and in the best interest of our members. The CEO makes the day-to-day business decisions for the cooperative.

A brief history of the REA

The Rural Electrification Administration (REA), a former agency of the U.S. Department

of Agriculture, administered loan programs for electrification and telephone service in rural areas. The REA was created (1935) by executive order as an independent federal bureau, authorized by the Congress in 1936, and later (1939) reorganized as a division of the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

The REA undertook the task to provide farms with affordable electric lighting and power. When REA was created, only about 10 percent of all farms had electricity. The administration was abolished in 1994 and its functions assumed by the Rural Utilities Service (RUS).

What is NRECA?

NRECA is a service organization representing more than 1,000 rural electric systems in 46 states. Through NRECA, member systems provide themselves services which would be unavailable or too expensive if each system, individually, attempted to provide

these services by itself. By working together through NRECA, member systems are able to provide better services to their members at the lowest possible cost. NRECA is not supported by government funds nor is it an agency of the Federal government.

What is Touchstone Energy?

Created in 1998, Touchstone Energy® is a branding initiative that communicates electric cooperatives' unique characteristics in a changing marketplace where these values and differences matter more each day. Touchstone Energy® emphasizes the significance of each electric cooperative's local presence and unique ties to its community, but offers the resources of a nationwide network to bring added value and benefit to customers. Touchstone Energy cooperatives serve their members with integrity, accountability, innovation and commitment to communities.

YOUTH TOUR HISTORY

Senator Lyndon Johnson inspired the Youth Tour when he addressed the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) Annual Meeting in Chicago in 1957. The senator declared, "If one thing comes out of this meeting, it will be sending youngsters to the national capital where they can actually see what the flag stands for and represents."

Beginning in 1957, Texas electric cooperatives began sending groups of young

people to Washington to work during the summer in Senator Johnson's office and learn more about government.

In 1958, electric cooperatives in Iowa sponsored the first group of 34 young people on a week-long study tour of the nation's capital. Later that year, another busload of students went to Washington, D.C., from Illinois. The idea grew, and other states began sending busloads of young people throughout the summer. By 1959, the Youth Tour had 130 students.

In 1964, NRECA began to coordinate the program and suggested that cooperative representatives from each state arrange to be in Washington, D.C., during Youth Tour week. The first year of the tour included approximately 400 young people from 12 states. The idea has continued to grow, and today more than 1,000 young people and chaperones participate in the Youth Tour each year.

2023 Washington Youth Tour Nomination Form

NRECA Washington Youth Tour June 15-22, 2023



Personal Information

Please make sure the phone numbers and email addresses you use on the application are ones you check regularly. You will need to check your phone and email throughout the summer should you be selected as a delegate. **(Required: Attach a recent photograph of yourself/headshot which can be used for publicity.)**

Student Name: _____

Student Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Student E-mail Address: _____

Student Cell #: _____ Home Phone #: _____

Student Age: _____ Birthday - mm/dd/yyyy: _____ Gender: _____

Parents' Names: _____

Parent Cell #: _____ Parent Cell #: _____

Parent e-mail address: _____

School Attended: _____ Grade Level: _____

School Address: _____

T-Shirt size: _____ GPA: _____

Other Information

Who is your U.S. Senator?

Who is your U.S. Representative?

Do you have any medical needs (such as allergies, asthma, etc.)? If yes, please list here:

Essay Portion

Please type a 500-750 word essay on the following topic:

Explain why you are applying to attend the 2022 Washington Youth Tour and why you should represent Coweta-Fayette EMC as a Washington Youth Tour delegate, as well as what you would gain from the experience.

Attach your essay along with your completed application. Please note: your essay or portions of it may be published to CFEMC's social media accounts, newsletter and/or website.

Honors, Affiliations and Community Service

In the space provided, please list any organizations in which you currently participate. Make sure to include any office held. Please provide examples of your community service activities. Please reference if you are employed. **You may attach a resume if you have one completed.**

High School:

Civic:

Religious or Church Related:

Work Experience:

Other:

Please describe your current educational or career objectives.

What topic would you like to discuss with your local legislator and why?

Student Consent

By signing below, said student acknowledges that all information provided is accurate and honest. Student is also agreeing to attend 2023 Washington Youth Tour, if chosen as the representative from his/her school.

Student Signature:

Date:

Parental Consent

By signing this form, the parent or guardian of said student is allowing the student to participate in all activities related to the 2023 Washington Youth Tour.

Parent or Guardian Signature:

Date:

School Consent

By signing this portion of the nomination form, said school certifies that honors, GPA and other information are accurate to the best of school's knowledge. This is also an endorsement from the school implying said student is of a high moral standard and a suitable candidate for the 2023 Washington Youth Tour program.

School Representative Signature:

Recommending teacher printed name:

Date:

Recommending teacher email:

Please make sure your application is complete with your essay. If you have any questions, please contact **Rachel Camp** at rcamp@utility.org.

You may mail this form and any attachments to
Attn: Rachel Camp • Coweta-Fayette EMC
• 807 Collinsworth Road • Palmetto, GA 30268-9442
or email it to rcamp@utility.org.

