



Coweta-Fayette



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CFEMC DELEGATES LEARN ABOUT OUR NATION'S CAPITAL ON THE WASHINGTON YOUTH TOUR

The annual Washington Youth Tour (WYT) offers Georgia delegates opportunities to learn about leadership, meet legislators, and tour iconic locations in the nation's capital, all while bonding with peers.

Every year, Coweta-Fayette EMC (CFEMC) recognizes outstanding high school students who are leaders in their schools, communities, places of worship, or academic and community organizations by providing a valuable leadership development program for exceptional teens through the Washington Youth Tour, established by America's electric cooperatives to inspire and educate our youth.

This year, the program returned to its original, in-person format and delegates experienced a week-long trip to Washington D.C. Seventy students and 10 adults, sponsored by 26 Georgia EMCs, attended the 2022 Washington Youth Tour, held from June 16-23.

Niyah Cameron, a rising senior at **Whitewater High School**; and **Jackson Terrell**, a rising senior at **Newnan High School**, were selected to represent CFEMC this year.

Highlights during their visit to our nation's capital included stops at the Smithsonian museums, Washington National Cathedral, Mount Vernon, Arlington National Cemetery, WWII Memorial, FDR, MLK Jr., Jefferson, Lincoln, Korean, Vietnam Veterans and 9/11 Pentagon memorials.

CFEMC delegates also enjoyed dinner and a show at Medieval Times and an evening boat cruise on the Potomac River with delegates from Arkansas, North Carolina, Ohio, Oregon and Washington.

On "Capitol Hill Day," CFEMC delegates enjoyed visits with U.S. Representatives Rick Allen, Buddy Carter, Drew Ferguson, and a member from Representative Sanford Bishop's office. Georgia delegates took a group photo with U.S. Senators Jon Ossoff and Raphael Warnock.

"This week has been such a blast. I have to say my favorite parts of the tour were visiting the Spy Museum, touring the Holocaust Museum (because it was such a humbling experience) and being able to walk the mall and bond with my new friends that I've made here," said Niyah Cameron, CFEMC WYT Delegate.



Niyah is interested in several colleges, including the University of Cambridge, the University of Minnesota, the University of Southern California, and Emory University, and wants to major in kinesiology and dance, with the goal of opening her own pediatric physical therapy.

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py practice.

"This week has been incredible! I honestly can't choose a favorite stop, but if I had to choose one it would have to be the Smithsonian's. Just seeing all the exhibits with parts of our history – it was such a rewarding experience that I can't even put it into words!" said Jackson Terrell, CFEMC WYT Delegate.

Jackson plans to attend Georgia Tech and major in biochemistry to potentially pursue a career in the medical field.

CFEMC Integrated Communications Coordinator **Rachel Camp** attended 2022 WYT as a chaperone. "Having the opportunity to chaperone the trip this year was such a treat! It was an eye-opening experience to watch Georgia delegates grow and gain so much knowledge throughout the week," said Camp.

Washington Youth Tour is an incredible opportunity for the next generation of leaders and our future workforce. It provides an opportunity to learn, network and connect with like-minded teens from across the state.

The next Washington Youth Tour will take place in June 2023. Information and applications can be found online at www.utility.org/washington-youth-tour.



Pictured above: Niyah Cameron, a rising senior at **Whitewater High School**; and **Jackson Terrell**, a rising senior at **Newnan High School**, at Mount Vernon. **Pictured below:** Georgia's 2022 Washington Youth Tour delegates at The White House.



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POWERlines • Editor: Chellie Phillips • 807 Collinsworth Road, Palmetto, GA 30268



The President's Message

Chris Stephens
CEO

It's no secret consumers with a water, gas or electricity connection have been targets for utility scams, but fraudsters have changed their tactics since the Covid-19 pandemic. As consumers became more reliant on technology for work, school and commerce, scammers noted these shifts and adapted their tactics to this changed environment.

Imposter scams are the number one type of fraud reported to the Federal Trade Commission. While scam artists may come to your door posing as a utility worker who works for the "power company," in today's more connected world, attempts are more likely to come through an electronic device, via email, phone or text.

Common Types of Scams

A scammer may claim you are overdue on your electric bill and threaten to disconnect your service if you don't pay immediately. Whether this is done in-person, by phone, text or email, the scammers want to scare you into immediate payment so you don't have time to think clearly.

If this happens over the phone, simply hang up. If you're concerned about your bill, call us at 770-502-0226. Our phone number can also be found on your monthly bill and on our website, utility.org. If the scam is by email or text, delete it before taking any action. If you're unsure, you can always contact us or use our app to check the status of your account. Remember, CFEMC will never demand immediate payment through any of these forms of contact.

Some scammers may falsely claim you have been overcharged on your bill and say they want to give a refund. It sounds easy. All you have to do is click or press a button to initiate the process. If you proceed, you will be prompted to provide banking or other personal information. Instead of money going into your bank account, scammers can drain your account and use personal information such as a social security number for identity theft.

If this "refund" scam happens over the phone, just hang up and block the phone number to prevent future robocalls. If this scam attempt occurs via email (known as a "phishing" attempt) or by text ("smishing"), do not click any links. Instead, delete it, and if possible, block the sender. If you do overpay on your energy bill, CFEMC will automatically apply the credit to your next billing cycle. When in doubt, contact us.

Defend Yourself Against Scams

Be wary of calls or texts from unknown numbers. Be suspicious of an unknown person claiming to be a utility worker who requests banking or other personal information.

Never let anyone into your home that you don't know unless you have a scheduled appointment or reported a problem. Our employees wear uniforms and carry ID badges. When we perform work on our members' property or come into your home, our employees are professionals and will always identify themselves.

We want to help protect our community against utility scams, and you can help create the first line of defense. Please report any potential scams to us so we can spread the word to prevent others in the community from falling victim.