

POWERLINES

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AUGUST 2025



Outstanding students from across Georgia recently returned from the Washington Youth Tour, a life-changing, week-long leadership experience sponsored by Georgia's Electric Membership Corporations. Timetria Gibson of Palmetto and Kai'Leia McCarty of Newnan, took part in this opportunity serving as delegates for Coweta-Fayette EMC.

From June 13–20, Gibson and McCarty joined more than 1,800 high school students from across the country in Washington, D.C., where they explored our nation's capital, developed leadership skills and discovered the importance of civic involvement and community service.

"This experience provides a powerful, real-world lesson in history, leadership and community impact that can't be taught in a classroom," said Tiffany Trueblood, CFEMC Youth Tour Coordinator and Public Relations and Communications Manager. "Not only do they broaden their horizons, they meet fellow youth leaders and find the 'co-op connection' that is all around us."

The 2025 Georgia delegation included 116 student delegates, 14 chaperones and three tour directors. The journey kicked off with a banquet in Atlanta, celebrating the delegates and their families before the group traveled to D.C.

While in the nation's capital, students visited iconic sites including Mount Vernon, Arlington National Cemetery, the U.S. Capitol, Supreme Court, Library of Congress, and the Smithsonian Museums.

They also toured revered memorials honoring Jefferson, Lincoln, FDR, MLK, and veterans of World War II, Vietnam and Korea.

Georgia's delegates also participated in a dinner cruise on the Cherry Blossom Riverboat where they took in historic sites from the Potomac River and enjoyed a night of fellowship.

"Being surrounded by so many ambitious people my age really left me inspired," said McCarty. "I left with new friends, great memories and more excitement to achieve my goals. I loved Washington Youth Tour!"

Beyond the monuments, students engaged in thoughtful discussions on current events and civic responsibility by attending an informational congressional luncheon where students had the opportunity to visit with congressional staffers and Senator Raphael Warnock. Delegates also participated in National Youth Day, hosted by the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, where keynote speaker Mike Schlappi, an Olympic gold medalist and author, shared his inspiring story of resilience and determination.

"I loved seeing sites such as the Library of Congress, Capitol and museums, but the people were so optimistic, passionate and uplifting, it really made an impact on me," said Gibson.

The Washington Youth Tour has impacted nearly 50,000 students nationwide since its inception. Alumni have gone on to lead in science, business and government—including the U.S. Senate—and many continue to serve their communities at local and state levels.

"The connections these students make and the experiences they share have the power to shape their future, and our communities, for years to come," said Trueblood. "As the program continues, we cannot wait to see what impact it continues to make on our future leaders."



McCarty (left) attends East Coweta High School, Gibson (right) attends Northgate High School



CHECK OUT THE YT
INSTAGRAM TAKEOVER!

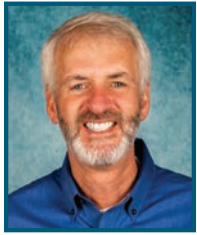


Know a high school junior that would love the Youth Tour experience in 2026? Contact us now to be notified when apps are available!

Scan the QR code
or email ttrueblood@utility.org
to be placed on the notification list!



Hurricane Season is Here - Let's Prepare Together



Chris Stephens
CEO

As we head into another hurricane season, I want to remind you just how important preparedness is, not just for your family, but also for your electric cooperative.

At Coweta-Fayette EMC, our employees take storm season seriously. Our crews and systems are well-prepared in advance, so when severe weather strikes, we're ready to respond. But storm readiness isn't just about what we do behind the scenes; it's a shared

responsibility. Together, we can reduce the risk of outages and make restoration efforts faster and safer for everyone involved.

Here's How We're Preparing

One of the most effective ways we prevent outages is through our Right-of-Way (ROW) program. You've probably seen our crews and contractors trimming trees or clearing brush along power line routes. That work is part of our vegetation management plan designed to keep power lines clear of obstructions and improve reliability for our members.

A right-of-way (ROW) is the land our co-op uses to construct, maintain, and repair power lines. By proactively trimming or removing trees that threaten lines, especially those that are fast-growing, leaning, diseased, or in decline, we help prevent flickering lights and outages. Clear lines also mean our crews can safely and quickly access equipment during an outage, which makes a big difference when every minute counts.

While most healthy trees aren't a threat, those growing too close to the lines can cause major issues during high winds or heavy rain. The majority of power outages are caused by trees or limbs coming into contact with lines. This year we've experi-

enced a high number of outages caused by trees that fell from outside our 30-foot ROW area. That's why we also need your help before the storm arrives.

Here's How You Can Help

Storm recovery is a team effort. While we're doing our part, we also need your help to keep our system, and your home, safe and ready.

If you have trees growing near service lines on your property, consider hiring a qualified professional to trim them. Never attempt to trim near power lines yourself. It's not just risky, it can be fatal.

Generator Use

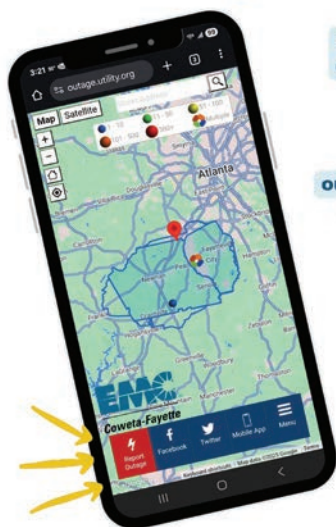
Another important safety tip involves the use of generators. If you plan to use a portable generator during a power outage, please make sure you know how to use it properly. Improper generator use can put lives at risk, especially the lives of our linemen working to restore your power. We have some important tips below.

And always remember, **just because a power line is down doesn't mean it's dead.** Stay far away from downed lines and anything that comes into contact with them. Call us immediately, and never try to remove debris or wires yourself.

At CFEMC, safety and reliability are at the core of everything we do. We're committed to delivering power you can count on, no matter what the forecast holds. With your help and some thoughtful preparation, we'll weather whatever comes our way together.



Did you know you can report an outage online?



Visit utility.org and click on the **Report An Outage** button.

You can report and view outages in real time no matter the time of day or night!

And don't forget to follow us on social media for the latest updates & news!



GENERATOR SAFETY - LIVES ON THE LINE

- **Read the manual.** Always follow the manufacturer's instructions carefully.
- **Ventilate.** Never run a generator indoors or in enclosed spaces. They produce carbon monoxide, which can be deadly.
- **Stay dry.** Use generators only in dry conditions and keep them on a dry surface, under an open structure.
- **Cool it down.** Let the engine cool before refueling to prevent fire hazards.
- **Unplug during startup.** Make sure nothing is connected to the generator when turning it on to prevent power surges.
- **Keep children and pets away.** Generators can burn or injure without warning.
- **Shut down safely.** Power off appliances first, then shut down the generator.
- **Perform maintenance.** Don't wait for a storm. Check the oil, fuel filters, and start it occasionally to ensure it's ready when you need it.



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