





About Youth Tour...

The Rural Electric Youth Tour is a group of more than 1,800 high school students who visit Washington, D.C., every June, year after year, from towns and small cities all over rural America. They come because their rural electric cooperatives think education is important — education about electric cooperatives and education about America.

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 goes 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."

Then, beginning in 1957, some of the Texas electric cooperatives sent groups of young people to Washington to work during the summer in Senator Johnson's office and learn more about government in action.

In 1958, rural 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 same year, another busload of students went to Washington, D.C., from Illinois. The idea grew, and other states sent busloads of young people throughout the summer. By 1959, the Youth Tour had grown to 130 students.

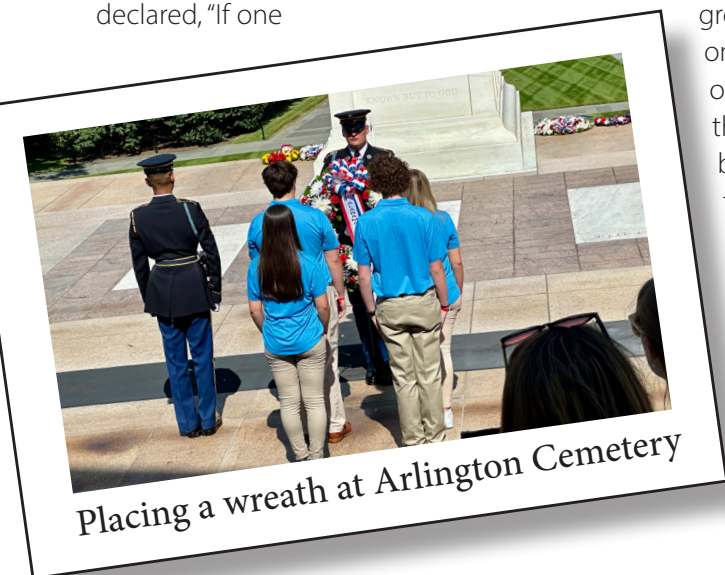


Visiting the Civil Rights Memorial

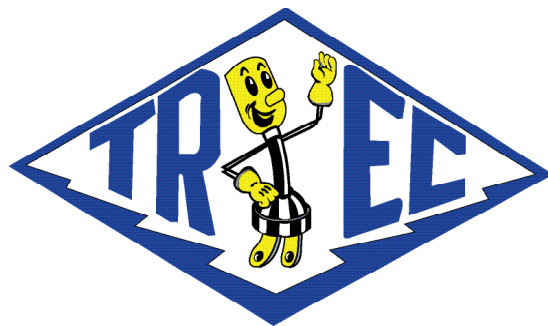
In 1964, NRECA began to coordinate the program and suggested that cooperative representatives from each state arrange to be in Washington, D.C., during Youth Tour week. The first year of the coordinated tour included approximately 400 young people from 12 states. The idea has continued to grow, and today more than 1,800 young people and chaperones participate in the Youth Tour each year.

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



Placing a wreath at Arlington Cemetery



Tallapoosa River Electric Cooperative

TALLAPOOSA RIVER ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE 2026 YOUTH TOUR COMPETITION

Please print.

Full Name (as it appears on driver's license) Age GPA

Home Address

City State Zip

Home Phone Number (Required) Tallapoosa River Electric Cooperative Account Number

School Student Attends School Contact Name, E-mail Address and Telephone Number

Student's Cell Phone Number Student's E-mail Address

Shirt Size: S M L XL XXL XXXL

EMERGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION:

Father's Name Father's E-mail Address

Employer Work Phone Number Cell Phone Number

Mother's Name Mother's E-mail Address

Employer Work Phone Number Cell Phone Number

STUDENT ACTIVITIES

Please print.

Name

Honors and Achievements:

School Activities/Clubs/Organizations:

Leadership Roles:

Volunteer Work:

Hobbies/Favorite Music/Favorite Movie:

Please print.

Please describe your current educational and career objectives:

Write a brief essay discussing how cooperatives differ from investor-owned utilities. (Attach a separate sheet if necessary.)

TALLAPOOSA RIVER ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE YOUTH TOUR CONSENT FORM

STUDENT CONSENT

By signing below, said student acknowledges that all information provided is accurate and honest. Student also agrees to attend ALL aspects of the 2026 Montgomery Youth Tour, March 11-13, 2026, and the 2026 Washington Youth Tour, June 14-20, 2026 if selected to represent TREC.

Student Signature: _____ Date: _____

PARENT CONSENT

By signing below, the parent or guardian of said student is allowing the student to participate in all activities related to the 2026 Montgomery and Washington Youth Tours. This document also provides for said student to receive any needed medical treatment while he/she is in the care of a Tallapoosa River Electric Cooperative representative or a staff member of the Alabama Rural Electric Association.

Parent Signature: _____ Date: _____

SCHOOL CONSENT

By signing this portion of the application, the said school agrees to allow the student to participate in all activities related to the 2026 Youth Tour. This also certifies that honors, GPA and other information are accurate to the best of the school's knowledge. This is also an endorsement from the school that implies said student is of high moral standards and a suitable candidate for the 2026 Youth Tour.

School Representative Signature and Title: _____ Date: _____

**Applications are due in the LaFayette Office of Tallapoosa River Electric Cooperative
by 5 p.m. January 9, 2026.**

Mail or email applications to the addresses listed below:

Seth House, Member Services
Tallapoosa River Electric Cooperative
P.O. Box 675
LaFayette, AL 36862
shouse@trec.coop

RULES:

In order to be eligible, students must be a junior in high school and the dependent child of a Tallapoosa River Electric Cooperative member.

Students interested in participating should complete an application and submit it to TREC via mail or email. All applications will be reviewed for eligibility by an independent panel of judges. The panel of judges will determine from the applications which students will participate in the interview portion of the competition.

Students selected to be interviewed will be notified Wednesday, January 14, 2026. Interviews will be conducted Wednesday, January 21, 2026 at Tallapoosa River Electric Headquarters in LaFayette.

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.

Montgomery Youth Tour

The 2025 Montgomery Youth Tour was held March 11-13. It boasted participation of approximately 140 high school students representing 18 cooperatives from around the state.

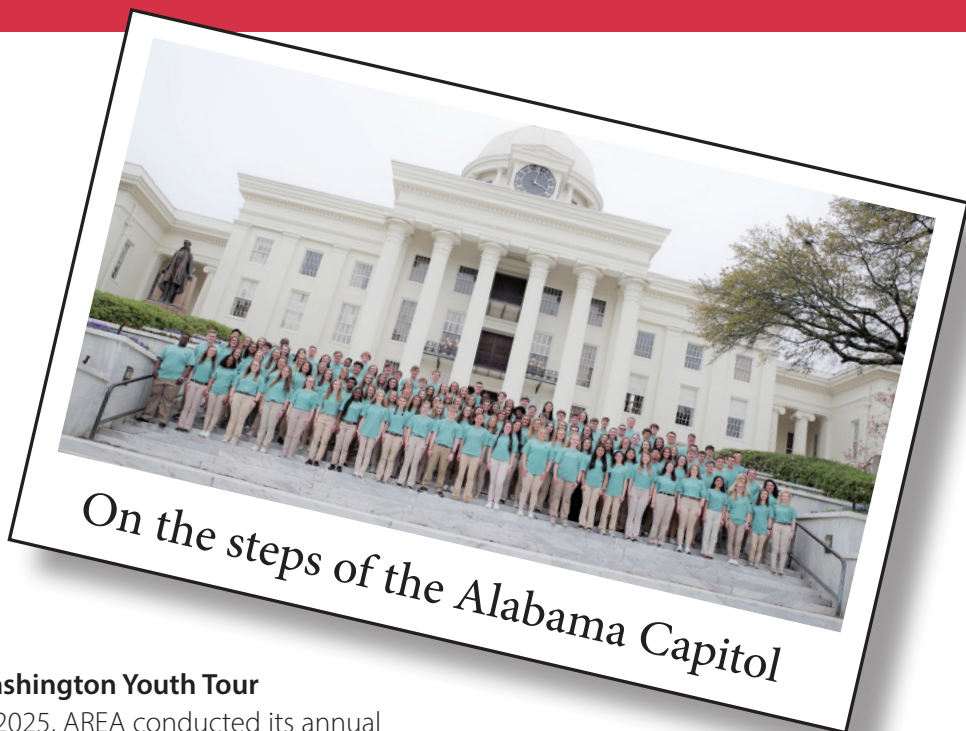
Students in the 2025 tour:

Participated in leadership sessions on being themselves, overcoming peer pressure and the importance of teamwork.

Students heard from guest speaker Craig Hillier.

Toured the Alabama State House, the Alabama Capitol and Legacy Museum.

Students were able to see their co-op leaders demonstrating the importance of keeping in touch with government leaders.



On the steps of the Alabama Capitol

Washington Youth Tour

In 2025, AREA conducted its annual Washington Youth Tour June 16-22, 2025, with 57 student participants.

Alabama's student delegation joined approximately 1,500 other high-school students from around the country for the activity-filled week.

Highlights of the trip included:

Visits to Capitol Hill.

AREA secured the use of the Senate Room in the new Capitol Visitors Centers for the students to meet their congressmen and staff. Students had the opportunity to discuss government and current issues with representatives.

Sightseeing.

Students got the opportunity to tour some of the following attractions in the Washington, D.C., area: Arlington Cemetery; Mount Vernon; the FDR Memorial; Jefferson Memorial; the Vietnam, Korean, World War II and Iwo Jima memorials; the Lincoln Memorial; the Holocaust Museum and other Smithsonian museums.



Important dates to remember...

January 9, 2026

Applications due to Tallapoosa River Electric

March 11-13, 2026

Montgomery Youth Tour

June 14-20, 2026

Washington Youth Tour

January 14, 2026

Students selected will be notified

January 21, 2026

Student interviews at Tallapoosa River Electric headquarters in LaFayette

Rural Electric Youth Day. In addition to taking in the sights and sounds of the nation's capital, all the state groups convened for Rural Electric Youth Day to learn from public figures and other inspirational speakers.

During Youth Day, a highlight of the week-long Youth Tour, students listened to an inspirational speaker, who challenged individuals of all ages that despite difficult circumstances, you can take responsibility and be empowered.

Youth Leadership Council

Caroline Short, a member of PowerSouth EC, won the honor of representing the state of Alabama at NRECA's annual Youth Leadership Council (YLC) Conference.

The council is comprised of one student representative from each state that participates in NRECA's youth program. The students help direct the focus of the youth program and learn more extensive leadership skills.

As Alabama's youth representative, Caroline will attend the AREA Annual Meeting and addressed students at the 2026 Montgomery Youth Tour.



TREC Delegates in Washington, D.C.



At the Marines Memorial in Washington, D.C.