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.

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

Visiting the Civil Rights Memorial
# TALLAPOOSA RIVER ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE
## 2023 YOUTH TOUR COMPETITION

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<tr>
<th>Full Name (as it appears on driver’s license)</th>
<th>Age</th>
<th>GPA</th>
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## EMERGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION:

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Name

Honors and Achievements:

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___________________________________________________________________________________________________________
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School Activities/Clubs/Organizations:

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Leadership Roles:

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Volunteer Work:

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Hobbies/Favorite Music/Favorite Movie:

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STUDENT GOALS AND STATEMENTS

Please print.

Name

Please describe your current educational and career objectives:

___________________________________________________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________________________________________

Write a brief statement about why you should be selected to represent Tallapoosa River Electric Cooperative during the 2023 Montgomery and Washington Youth Tours:

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

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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 2023 Montgomery Youth Tour, March 14-16, 2023, and the 2023 Washington Youth Tour, June 18-23, 2023 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 2023 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 2023 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 2023 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 13, 2023.

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
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 2022 Montgomery Youth Tour was held March 15-17. It boasted participation of approximately 140 high school students representing 17 cooperatives from around the state.

Students in the 2022 tour:
Participated in leadership sessions on being themselves, overcoming peer pressure and the importance of teamwork.

Participated in teambuilding activities with Cea Cohen Elliott.

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

Washington Youth Tour
In 2019, AREA conducted its annual Washington Youth Tour June 14-20, with 57 student participants.

Alabama’s student delegation joined 1,888 other high-school students from around the country for the activity-filled week.

Highlights of the trip included:

Visits to Capitol Hill.

Sightseeing.
Students get 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.

Students love attractions such as Madame Toussauds Wax Museum and the Newseum as well.

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 18, 2023. Interviews will be conducted Tuesday, January 24, 2023 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
Hope Johnson, a member of Central Alabama 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, Johnson attended a special leadership conference in Washington, D.C., the AREA Annual Meeting and addressed students at the 2020 Montgomery Youth Tour.

Important dates to remember...

January 13, 2023
Applications due to Tallapoosa River Electric

January 18, 2023
Students selected will be notified

January 24, 2023
Student interviews at Tallapoosa River Electric headquarters in LaFayette

March 14-16, 2023
Montgomery Youth Tour

June 18-23, 2023
Washington Youth Tour

TREC Delegates in Washington, D.C.

At the Marines Memorial in Washington, D.C.