

What is Youth Tour?

Youth Tour is an annual leadership experience sponsored by Ohio's Electric Cooperatives and your local electric cooperative that gives exceptional high school sophomores and juniors the opportunity to attend an all-expenses-paid week-long trip to Washington, D.C.

If selected, you and nearly 1,600 other students from around the country will meet in Washington in June. Once there, you'll get a chance to meet Ohio's congressional leaders and visit D.C.'s most impressive and historic sites.

How is it different than other DC. trips?

On school trips, you're surrounded by people you see every single day. On Youth Tour, you'll be meeting new people from all over the country, and seeing D.C. from a completely new perspective.

You'll also be learning about leadership and public service – and you'll learn how cooperatives put people before profits and make our country a better place.



History of Youth Tour

The Electric Cooperative Youth Tour is made up of a group of nearly 1,600 high school students who visit Washington, D.C., every June, year after year, from small towns and rural areas all across the United States. They come because their electric cooperatives think education about co-ops, government, and public service is important.

Senator (and future president) 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 to learn more about government in action.

In 1958, rural electric cooperatives in Iowa sponsored the first group of 34 teenagers on a week-long study tour of the nation's capital.

Later that same year, another bus load of students from Illinois went to Washington, D.C. The idea grew, and other states sent bus loads of students throughout the summer. By 1959, Youth Tour had grown to 130 students.

In 1964, NRECA began to coordinate the program and suggested the cooperative representatives from each state arrange to be in Washington, D.C., during Youth Tour week.

More than a half-century later, Youth Tour continues to grow and flourish.



June 9–15



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While on Youth Tour, you will visit:

Gettysburg Battlefield
Franklin Delano Roosevelt Memorial
World War II Memorial
Jefferson Memorial
Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial
Mt. Vernon
The White House
Capitol Hill
The Supreme Court
Smithsonian Institution
Marine Corps Memorial
Lincoln Memorial
Vietnam Memorial
Arlington National Cemetery



What are the requirements?

You must be a high school sophomore or junior, and your parents or legal guardian must be members of an Ohio electric cooperative

Selected students should be energetic and eager to make the most out of this fun and exciting leadership opportunity.

What did past attendees think?

"The Youth Tour is such an awesome opportunity and program!"

"Everything about the trip was great!"

"I had the time of my life on Youth Tour. It has made me become a better person and has taught me that I can become anything I want to."

"I would do it all again in a heartbeat if I had the chance."

"It was a great educational experience to learn about our government and meet our congressman."

"Thank you so much for allowing me to be a part of this trip! I had a blast and would love to do it again if I could."

"I loved Youth Tour. Thanks for an AMAZING opportunity!"

"I thought this was a very relaxed and fun trip. I had an outstanding time."



Interested?

Contact Washington
Electric Cooperative
at (740) 373-2141
or weci@weci.org
to obtain an application.

The application deadline is
March 22, 2017.