

How will you **MAKE YOUR MARK?**




*A week of building memories, skills, leadership
and friendships that will last a lifetime!*

Experience the trip of a lifetime with Youth Tour!

- Explore Washington, D.C. through historic monuments, world-class museums, and visits with elected officials.
- Build leadership skills and discover how you can make your mark on the future.
- Connect with students from across the country and form friendships that last a lifetime, all sponsored by your local electric cooperative.



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

MAKE YOUR MARK!



Rules for Rural Electric Cooperative's 2026 Youth Tour

How to enter:

1. Complete the entry form and essay.
2. Write an original speech (without the use of A.I.) of 600 to 800 words on the topic below.
3. Speeches must be typed and double-spaced on 8 ½" x 11" paper.
4. No name should appear on the manuscript but must be included on the entry form along with school name, teacher's name and contact information.
5. Contest papers are due on Wednesday, December 3, 2025.

Essay topic:

"Reflect on how the cooperative business model supports democratic participation, youth engagement and ethical business practices."

Judging: A panel of judges knowledgeable about electric cooperatives will evaluate and rank the essays. The top six essays will be finalists for this year's contest. Criteria for judging will be as follows:

Knowledge of subject – 40%	Includes a demonstrated understanding of material, relevance of information, direct understanding of subject
Strength of ideas – 25%	Includes recognizable point being made, solid support of your view
Style – 20%	Includes originality of approach, appealing presentation
Writing usage/grammar – 15%	Includes correct use of words, punctuation, spelling and sentence structure.

Final judging: Students who write the six highest scoring essays will be invited to give their speech at a banquet honoring REC's youth program winners. Judges will determine the winners of the all-expense paid trip to Washington D.C. at that time.

Prizes: The top three finalists will be awarded an all-expense paid trip to Washington D.C. for National Youth Tour Week, June 13 - 19, 2026. The three remaining finalists will be runners-up and will be awarded an all-expense paid trip to Steamboat Springs, Colorado for Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp, July 10 - 16, 2026.

Note: Should any of the top three finalists be unable to attend Youth Tour, a runner-up (in the order of scoring) will then receive the trip. Also, family members (as defined in REC's Bylaws and Policies) of REC Trustees and Employees are not eligible to participate in the Youth Tour competition.

Questions concerning the speech, or the trips should be directed to the Member Services and Marketing Department of Rural Electric Cooperative in Lindsay at 405-756-3104 ext. 238.

Visit REC's website www.recok.coop for more information about Youth Tour.

MAKE YOUR MARK!



JUNE 13 - 19, 2026

Student Name:

Student Phone:

Student Email (accessible in summer):

Student Address:

Student City / State / Zip:

Student Gender:

Student High School:

Parent/Guardian #1 Name:

Parent/Guardian #1 Phone:

Parent/Guardian #1 Email:

Parent/Guardian #2 Name:

Parent/Guardian #2 Phone:

Parent/Guardian #2 Email: