

# Washington DC

# 2019

# Youth Tour



Three Juniors\* will be chosen by Sussex Rural Electric Cooperative for a trip of a lifetime to Washington, D.C., June 16-21, 2019



# We Want You!



**Sussex Rural  
Electric Cooperative, Inc.**

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

**For more information  
visit [sussexrec.com](http://sussexrec.com)**

\* must reside in a home receiving electric service from Sussex Rural Electric Cooperative.

# YOUTH TOUR

Youth Tour is an all-expenses paid, once-in-a-lifetime chance for you to bond with fellow students, meet elected officials and experience our nation's capital. More than 1,700 students from all across America take part in the Youth Tour experience each year and so can you! This unique trip gives the opportunity to watch history come alive as you explore museums, memorials and monuments with other students. Some of the stops for the trip may include the Newseum, Arlington National Cemetery, Iwo Jima Sunset Parade, Madame Tussauds' Wax Museum, Smithsonian, a Kennedy Center production, National Zoo, the Holocaust Museum and a Potomac Boat Cruise.

You will meet student leaders from nearly every state and hear dynamic speakers. You will make friendships that last a lifetime and be part of a group that has more than 50,000 alumni in every walk of life, including U.S. Senators and CEOs.

Apple CEO Tim Cook for example, told George Washington University students how he "had come face to face with two men who guaranteed themselves a place in history," while on Youth Tour.



The Youth Tour provides the opportunity for young people to:

- ✎ Increase their understanding of the value of rural electrification;
- ✎ Become more familiar with the historical and political environment of the nation's capital through visits to monuments, government buildings and cooperative organizations;
- ✎ Visit elected officials in order to increase their knowledge of how the federal government works;
- ✎ Expand their understanding of cooperatives as a business model.

## THE ORIGIN OF THE YOUTH TOUR

Senator Lyndon Johnson inspired the Youth Tour when he addressed the 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."

Consequently, 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, to 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. The idea grew and other states sent busloads of young people throughout the summer. By 1959, the Youth Tour had grown to 130 youths.

In 1964, the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) began to coordinate the program and suggested that co-op 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.

NRECA coordinates hotel accommodations, maintains a Youth Tour office in the hotel, arranges to have a full time nurse on duty and offers film, postage stamps and Youth Tour souvenirs for sale. NRECA organizes educational programs on cooperatives, rural electrification and government.



Additionally, NRECA coordinates Youth Day during which all Youth Tour participants assemble to listen to prominent speakers and complete the day with a dinner dance. NRECA also coordinates boat cruises on the Potomac and theater tickets to one of Washington's professional theaters.

## YOUTH LEADERSHIP COUNCIL

The Youth Leadership Council (YLC) is a joint effort of local electric co-ops, statewides and NRECA that was created to provide an extension of youth activities available to states participating in the Youth Tour program. Each state is entitled to have one representative on the Youth Leadership

The YLC is designed to develop the participants' leadership and presentation skills and provide a broader understanding of electric cooperatives. All YLC members attend the NRECA Youth Leadership Conference and the NRECA Annual Meeting. In addition, YLC members are selected from NRECA Regional Meeting host states to speak before the membership about their Youth Tour experiences.

The NRECA Youth Leadership Conference is held each summer following the Youth Tour. The Conference provides hands-on activities that promote individual leadership development. During the conference, participants select a spokesperson to address the membership of the NRECA Annual Meeting and the Youth Tour delegates the following summer.



## APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

Contest is open to any high school junior who resides in a home receiving electric service from Sussex Rural Electric Cooperative.

For more information and application go to [sussexrec.com](http://sussexrec.com)

Completed Youth Tour application and all application requirements must be received at SREC before Feb. 1, 2019.

## REQUIREMENTS OF FINALISTS

Finalists must attend:

A Youth Tour Orientation night with your parent or guardian.

A meetings of SREC's board of directors

SREC's annual meeting on June 3, 2019 at 7:00 p.m.

**For more information on Youth Tour, contact:  
Claudia Raffay, Manager of Member Services  
[craffay@sussexrec.com](mailto:craffay@sussexrec.com)  
or 973-875-5101 ext. 117**

