



Tri-County
Electric Cooperative

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative



PO Box 159, 16894 US Highway 63
Lancaster, Missouri 63548



Cooperative Youth Conference and Leadership Experience

Official Youth Tour/Cycle Application

2025 Youth Tour & Cycle Application
Information
Youth Tour: June 14-20, 2026 | CYCLE: July 14-17, 2026

Eligibility:

- Entrants must be a student who currently attends a school in our service area.
 - Entrants must be high school sophomores or juniors at the time of application due date. Homeschooled students are also eligible to apply but must be in our service area.
 - Applications must be received by the deadline which is published online and/or during the presentation annually.
 - Incomplete applications are ineligible.
 - Applicants will be asked to participate in an essay, video, or art contest and provide a completed application. The entries will be judged by a third party to ensure the judges stay impartial while scoring.
 - The top two winners of the essay contest will go to Youth Tour, the following third and fourth winners will go to Youth Cycle. Juniors will qualify for Tour, Sophomores will qualify for Cycle unless not enough applicants apply and then Sophomores will be eligible for Tour. The committee will weigh responses based on content quality and content of the entry (video, essay, or art).
 - The selected winning delegates will be notified within two to four weeks after contest is over. Any winner who decides not to go will need to notify the cooperative no less than 30 days prior to the trip. If the winner cancels less than 7 days, a 50% fee may be collected from the winner to cover all upfront costs such as airfare.
- Applicants cannot be an immediate family member of a director or an employee of Tri-County Electric Cooperative.

Entry Rules:

1. Students must submit an essay, piece of art, or video, on the topic "Out of the seven core principles of cooperatives, which is the most important and why?":
 - Essays must be at least 1 page double spaced, size 12 font. Videos must be at least 2 minutes in length and the student must speak during the video. All art that is entered must have a paragraph accompany the artwork to explain the piece and imagery.
2. Entries will be judged based on the following equal components:
 - Originality
 - Composition
 - Neatness
 - Grammar & Syntax
 - Critical Thinking
3. All entries received by the March 6, 2026 due date will be judged by an unbiased third party. The judges will then pick two junior students to receive the all-expense-paid trip to Washington, D.C., and two junior students to receive the all-expense-paid trip to CYCLE in Jefferson City. Winners of both Youth Tour and CYCLE will be contacted two to four weeks after the contest deadline.

TRI-COUNTY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE LANCASTER, MISSOURI APPLICATION FORM

Full Name _____ Date of Birth _____
Grade in School _____ Name of High School _____
Age _____ Phone Number _____ Email _____
Address _____

Parent/Guardian information

Full Name _____
Relationship _____ Phone Number _____
Email _____

Parent/Guardian Release Form

As parent/guardian of _____, I give my approval for him or her to enter the
"Youth Tour & CYCLE Essay Contest," and if selected to receive either trip, they have my permission to
participate on behalf of Tri-County Electric Cooperative.

Signature of Parent _____ Signature of Student _____
Date: _____ Date: _____

Photo Release Form for Minors (if under 18)

Tri-County Electric Cooperative has my permission to use my child's photograph publicly to promote the Cooperative during and after Youth Tour/CYCLE. I understand that the images may be used in professional print publications (Rural Missouri), online publications, presentations, websites, and social media.

Please direct any questions to Stephanie Mills at Tri-County Electric Cooperative.

Email: smills@tricountyelectric.org 660-457-3733 ext 233.

Parent/Guardian's Signature: _____ Date _____

Phone Number/Email Address: _____



1. List any extracurricular activities (teams, clubs, organizations, etc.) you participate in:

2. In what ways, do you spend your free time?

3. What are you education/career plans after high school?

4. What is one thing you would do to improve your community?

5. Why did you enter this contest?



MISSOURI YOUTH TOUR

TO WASHINGTON, D.C.



It's a tripto Washington,D.C.!!! 2026 marks the 63rd year that the Missouri Electric Cooperatives havebeensending youth to our nation's capitol. During six days in June, the delegates have the opportunity to see monuments, memorials, and maybe even some famous people. There is also the opportunity to make new friends from Missouri, Hawaii, Florida, or....any state in the nation! You will also visit with your members of the House of Representatives and the U.S. Senate.

Dates:

June14-20, 2026

How Many Attend?

Therewill be over 100 from Missouri, and over 1,800 total – all there at the same time!

How Much Does It Cost?

It is totally FREE!

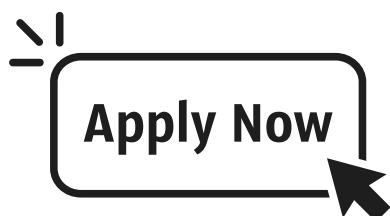
Who can attend?

HighSchool juniors wholive in or attend a school in a cooperative service territory.

See more at: www.moyouthtour.com

The Washington Monument
The US Capitol
Smithsonian Museums
Arlington Cemetery
Mount Vernon

Lincoln Memorial
Jefferson Memorial
Vietnam Wall
Boat Cruise on the Potomac River



Questions?

Email: Smills@tricountyelectric.org

Call: 660-457-3733



COOPERATIVE YOUTH CONFERENCE & LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE



CYCLE is an action-filled four days that provides high school students opportunities to learn first-hand what it is like to be involved in the legislative process, the cooperative form of business and how to be a leader. The program includes nationally known speakers, a day at the Missouri State Capitol, a tour of the Missouri State Penitentiary, a day tour of St. Louis, and education about electric cooperatives. Students will also get the chance to sit in the chamber of the Missouri House of Representatives and debate a bill just like our elected officials would. They get to experience first-hand how laws are made to enhance the quality of life for all Missourians.

DATES:

JULY 14 - 17, 2026

ATTENDANCE:

OVER 100 MISSOURI DELEGATES

QUALIFICATIONS:

SOPHOMORES OR JUNIORS WHO
LIVE IN OR ATTEND SCHOOL IN
COOPERATIVE SERVICE TERRITORY

COST:

TOTALLY FREE

MORE INFO:

MOYOUTHTOUR.COM/CYCLE



HEAR NATIONALLY KNOWN SPEAKERS



MEET MISSOURI STATE LEADERS



DEBATE LEGISLATION AT THE CAPITOL



COMPETE IN TEAM COMPETITIONS



MAKE NEW FRIENDS FROM ACROSS
MISSOURI



AND MUCH, MUCH, MORE

TO APPLY, CONTACT YOUR LOCAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE



Apply Now



Questions?

Email: Smills@tricountyelectric.org

Call: 660-457-3733