Youth Tour/CYCLE was built on the belief that textbooks and lectures alone are not enough to help you understand the democratic process and gain the skills necessary to become tomorrow’s leaders.

Today, rather, you should have the opportunity to experience government first-hand by visiting our state and nation’s capital, meeting our representatives and senators and engaging in interactive workshops/discussions.

We hope by educating students and enhancing their self-worth, we can promote and inspire responsible young adults and informed participation in the democratic process - in essence, ensuring a stronger future for everyone.
Youth Tour is an annual week-long, all-expense-paid trip that brings together over 100 high school juniors from Missouri and more than 1,500 students from 44 other states to Washington, D.C. Tri-County Electric Cooperative sends one junior high school student each year. Home-schooled students are eligible.

Students attend a premiere youth leadership conference sponsored by the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association. Highlights of the conference include discussions on community issues and solutions, motivational speeches by today’s recognized leaders, the opportunity to meet your state legislators, visit monuments and memorials, and make lifelong friends.

The Cooperative Youth Conference and Leadership Experience is a three-day conference in Jefferson City. Over 100 of the brightest young leaders from Missouri. The program teaches students about electric cooperatives, leadership skills and Missouri state government. It includes nationally known speakers, a day at the state Capitol in addition to other fun activities.

There is also time for some fun things like an outdoor barbecue and team competitions in various events like the “build a Cooperative” game. This conference is for high school sophomores and juniors who desire to lead their schools! The entire trip is all-expense paid! CYCLE has been honored with a national award for community youth programs and has the great potential to change lives!

Youth Tour

eligibility
Any high school junior/sophomore in the Tri-County Electric service area is eligible to apply.

entering
Students can submit any essay of their choosing, as long as it meets the 1-2 page requirement. You are provided with information on the application process, in addition to the Official Entry Application.

essay topic
Students can use a previously written essay from their most recent English class, or choose a different topic entirely, as long as it is appropriate for use in an English class.

transportation - CYCLE
Generally students will meet at Tri-County’s office and from there the cooperative will provide transportation to and from Jefferson City for CYCLE. The cooperative is always willing to work around schedules.

chaperones
The chaperones will be 10 to 12 coop employees and their spouses from the cooperative. The cooperative will provide transportation to and from any destination in case the students’ parents/guardian are unable to.

food
Tri-County Electric will be covering all expenses, including your meals, while on the trip. You’ll eat at the hotel or at restaurants when touring. All meals will be provided for you during both Youth Tour and CYCLE.

travel and sightseeing
You will tour all major monuments and museums. One night you will go on a “Dinner and Dance” Cruise on the Potomac River, and another day will be Youth Day where you will meet up with all other states for some fun. It’s truly a trip of a lifetime!

is it really free?
YES! Everything on the trip is provided to you. The only thing you will need money for is the souvenirs you choose to buy.

what’s the catch?
There’s NO catch. TCCEC is offering you a FREE trip to Washington, D.C.

The cooperative will always provide transportation to and from any destination in case the students’ parents/guardian are unable to.

judging
The essays will be sent to a 3rd party that will judge them equally in 5 different areas (see app.). The student with the highest overall score will be going to Youth Tour.

runner-up
The runner-up will be awarded a trip to the Cooperative Youth Conference and Leadership Experience (CYCLE) and will be alternate the alternate for the trip to D.C.

judging
The essays will be sent to a 3rd party that will judge them equally in 5 different areas (see app.). The student with the highest overall score will be going to Youth Tour.

contacted
You will receive a letter from the co-op letting you know you’ve won, as well as a winner’s packet with forms we will need you to send back to AMEC in Jefferson City. Once AMEC receives the forms they will send you 3 separate mailings that give you detailed trip information.

headline
All essays must be received by 4:30 P.M. on Friday, March 20, 2020.

transportation - Youth Tour
Your parents/guardian® will take you to Columbia the night prior for an orientation dinner where you will get the chance to meet the other students, sponsors and chaperones. The next day you will be chartered by bus where you and the other students will fly to Washington, D.C.

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Send by E-mail
tricountyelectricmo@gmail.com

Send by mail:
Tri-County Electric Cooperative
Attn: Youth Tour
P.O. Box 159
Lancaster, MO 63548

Send by Fax
660-457-3736