



POWERLINES

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The Official Newsletter of Tri-State Electric Membership Corporation

Tri-State EMC Accepting Essays for 2017 Washington Youth Tour

Tri-State EMC is accepting applications from area high school juniors to compete for an all-expenses-paid spot on the 2017 Washington Youth Tour (WYT). The weeklong leadership trip offers delegates the opportunity to experience our government and history up close while having fun, making friends and gaining leadership skills.

Three delegates sponsored by Tri-State EMC will join teens from other electric cooperatives to participate in the 2017 WYT. One student from each of the three local high schools (Fannin County High School, Copper Basin High School and Hiwassee Dam High School) will be chosen. Interested students can submit essays at their high schools. The deadline to turn in the essay is March 15, 2017.

The fast-paced, high-energy program is designed to give students a taste of democracy in action, expose them to the nation's rich history through visits to national monuments and museums and encourage them to become politically aware citizens.

The unforgettable trip includes face-to-face meetings with state and national leaders, leadership training and discussions on important issues with students from other states.

The group travels to Washington, D.C., to connect with more than 1,500 students from across the country. The students cruise down the Potomac River, visit the Tomb of the Unknowns in Arlington National Cemetery and tour the U.S. Supreme Court, the Bureau of Engraving and Printing, Mount Vernon, the National Cathedral and Ford's Theatre.

Students will visit memorials and monuments honoring Presidents Franklin Roosevelt, Jefferson, Lincoln and Washington and veterans of World War II and the Vietnam and Korean wars. They also will watch the U.S. Marine Drum and Bugle Corps and the Silent Drill Platoon perform at the Iwo Jima Memorial, as well as spend time at the Smithsonian, Newseum and Holocaust Memorial Museum.



Human Resources Manager Chris Hulsey, right, and delegates (from left) Jordan Hayes, Emma Wood and Sabrina Cole represented Tri-State EMC on the 2016 Washington Youth Tour. Students can apply now to be a delegate on the 2017 tour.

You Have the Power ... to Track Daily Energy Use

Have you ever thought about how much electricity you use each day? Do you wonder why your electric bill varies from month to month? Tri-State EMC offers a free powerful tool to help you manage your energy use and have more control over your electric bill.

MyUsage.com helps you save money by keeping you more aware of the energy you consume every day. Because participants can monitor their electric use daily, rather than wait to see their energy use on monthly bills, TSEMC members report using less energy each day. By



tracking your energy use on a regular basis, you can use energy more efficiently, which is better for the environment and your wallet.

All Tri-State EMC members can sign up for this free service, whether they receive monthly bills or are a PrePay member. When you sign up, you can view your daily use online, receive alerts by email and customize them so you know when consumption goes over the limits you set.

To start tracking your use daily, visit www.tsemc.net and click the MyUsage link.

Tri-State EMC

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Tri-State Electric Membership Cooperative is a not-for-profit, member-owned power cooperative providing electricity to the people of Cherokee County, NC; Polk County, TN; and Fannin County, GA.



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Move Over for Utility Workers



The 41 electric membership corporations (EMCs) in Georgia, including Tri-State EMC (TSEMC), brought the issue of lineworker safety before the 2016 Georgia General Assembly. As a result, TSEMC linemen have joined the ranks of law enforcement, public safety and transportation personnel who will be better protected under a new law signed by Gov. Nathan Deal.

House Bill 767, the “Move Over for Linemen” legislation, requires any Georgia motorist approaching utility linemen at an active work site—as indicated by traffic cones or flashing yellow, amber, white or red lights—to change lanes or reduce their speed to a reasonable and proper speed below the posted speed limit.

Any motorist who does not change lanes or slow down to avoid utility workers can be fined up to \$250 per occurrence. The new bill applies to all types of utility workers, including electric, natural gas, cable and telecommunications workers, right-of-way crews or utility contractors.

The new law and added protections are critical to safeguard workers. According to the Georgia Department of Highway Safety, emergency vehicles parked beside a highway are vulnerable to crashes, even with emergency

lights flashing. Consequently, the original law (passed in 2003) was created to reduce the number of injuries and fatalities to police officers, paramedics, firefighters, wrecker operators and highway maintenance workers by maintaining an open buffer lane between passing highway traffic and authorized roadside emergency vehicles.

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month



A crackling fire in the hearth warms the house, but don't let it heat up your electric bill! Caulk around the fireplace hearth and keep the damper closed when a fire is not burning.

—Source: U.S. Department of Energy