

Tri-State EMC Takes Local Students to Washington, D.C.

Three students from the Tri-State EMC service area spent a week in the nation's capital as delegates of the 2023 Washington Youth Tour (WYT). Kira Hyatt from Copper Basin High School, Blake Dotson from Hiwassee Dam High School and Kendra Newman from Fannin County High School joined 128 other students from across Tennessee on the weeklong trip that began Friday, June 16, 2023.

This annual event is sponsored by Tri-State EMC and the Tennessee Electric Cooperative Association. Students were selected for the trip by writing an essay titled "Co-ops Connect" that explains how co-ops connect Tennessee communities with energy, education, broadband, economic development and more.

Tri-State EMC Human Resources Manager Chris Hulsey says Youth Tour delegates are the future leaders of the region. "Through the Youth Tour, these young people are given an extraordinary chance to explore history and public policy in a direct way, cultivate their leadership skills and acquire knowledge that will be valuable for their communities down the road."

"The Washington Youth Tour is more than just a trip," says Todd Blocker, WYT Director and Vice President of Member Relations for the Tennessee Electric Cooperative Association. "It's a transformative experience that ignites a love of history, inspires leadership and empowers young minds to shape the future. By witnessing awe-inspiring monuments, engaging with our nation's leaders and connecting with a community of peers, the Youth Tour can cultivate a lifelong passion for active citizenship."

While in Washington, D.C., Tennessee's Youth Tour delegates saw the White House and visited memorials honoring past presidents Thomas Jefferson, Abraham Lincoln and Franklin Delano Roosevelt, as well as monuments honoring the sacrifices of veterans of World War II and the Vietnam and Korean wars.

During visits to the museums of the Smithsonian Institution, the touring Tennesseans saw and experienced natural, historical and artistic treasures. Other fun stops included historic homes of former presidents—George Washington's Mount Vernon and Thomas Jefferson's Monticello—as well as the National Museum of the Marine Corps, Washington National Cathedral and a boat cruise down the Potomac River. The group also paid a solemn and sobering visit to Arlington National Cemetery, where del-



From left, Blake Dotson, Kira Hyatt, Kelly Hulsey and Kendra Newman with Tri-State EMC Human Resources Manager Chris Hulsey.

egates laid a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.

Delegates were welcomed to the U.S. Capitol by U.S. Sens. Marsha Blackburn and Bill Hagerty, as well as other members of the Tennessee congressional delegation. Students had the opportunity to take photos with the senators and ask questions.

The Washington Youth Tour was inspired by former President Lyndon B. Johnson in 1957, when he encouraged electric cooperatives to send young people to the nation's capital. Since then, more than 6,000 young Tennesseans have participated in the Washington Youth Tour as delegates.



Official Announcement of Tri-State EMC's 2023 Annual Meeting

**Join Us for Our 75th Anniversary
September 16, 2023**

Tri-State Electric Membership Corp.'s Annual Meeting of Members will be held at the Fannin County High School Performing Arts Center on Saturday, September 16, 2023. Registration will be held from 8-10 a.m., followed by a brief business meeting at 10 a.m.

The meeting will include reports of officers, directors and committees. The results of the election of directors will be announced, and members will consider other business that may properly come before the meeting.

Special door prizes will be drawn at the conclusion of the business meeting.



Holiday Office Closing

Tri-State EMC will be closed Monday,
September 4, 2023, in observance of Labor Day.