

Students Participate in Trip of a Lifetime

Three students from Tri-State EMC experienced a trip of a lifetime serving as delegates on the 2025 Washington Youth Tour. Savannah Bloodworth from Copper Basin High School, Carlee Klimesmith from Fannin County High School and Abby Lee from Hiwassee Dam High School were among 132 students from across Tennessee who attended the weeklong trip in June.

"Attending the Washington Youth Tour was truly life-changing," says Carlee. "I'm so grateful to my electric co-op for giving me the chance to connect with leaders, make lifelong friends and see our nation's capital in a whole new light. It showed me the power of community and the impact local co-ops have beyond just keeping the lights on."

This year's participants toured Thomas Jefferson's Monticello, the Smithsonian Institution, International Spy Museum, Washington National Cathedral, U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum, Ford's Theatre and various memorials across Washington, D.C.

Delegates also toured the Capitol and met representatives from Tennessee who advocate for electric co-ops and their communities. Other highlights included visiting the Smithsonian National Zoo, taking a boat cruise, seeing the musical "Les Misérables," watching the changing of the guard followed by a wreath-laying ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in Arlington National Cemetery and participating in the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association's Youth Day at Gaylord National Resort and Convention Center.

"The Washington Youth Tour is more than a trip; it's a launching pad for future leaders," says BJ Bernard, WYT Tour Director and Vice President of Member Services for the Tennessee Electric Cooperative Association (TECA). "Each year, we watch Tennessee's brightest students gain confidence, build lasting connections and return home inspired to make a difference in their communities, and I got to experience that



Above: From left, Washington Youth Tour delegates Carlee Klimesmith, Savannah Bloodworth and Abby Lee with Copper Basin High School teacher and chaperone Emma Wood.



Left: Tri-State EMC WYT delegates at the International Spy Museum in Washington, D.C.

firsthand this year. This experience, made possible by our electric co-ops, empowers these young people to realize their potential and see the value of service and civic engagement."

Delegates are selected through the Electric Cooperatives Creative Writing and Scholarship Competition. Students had to write a 900-word short story explaining how co-ops are "Energizing Every Moment" by supplying Tennessee communities with energy, education, broadband, economic development and more. From that essay, they were then selected for numerous scholarship opportunities, including ones with partner schools Carson-Newman University and Union University.

The Washington Youth Tour began in the late 1950s. Former President Lyndon B. Johnson inspired the trip, and since then, more than 6,000 students from Tennessee have participated in this fast-paced leadership opportunity. TECA and the member-owned electric cooperatives across the state are proud to sponsor this unique learning experience and help shape the next generation of informed, engaged citizens.



2025 Annual Meeting of Members

Join us for our 77th anniversary on Saturday, September 20, 2025

Tri-State Electric Membership Corp.'s Annual Meeting of Members will be held in the Fannin County High School Performing Arts Center on Saturday, September 20, 2025.

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 also 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

The Tri-State EMC office will be closed
Monday, September 1, 2025, for Labor Day.