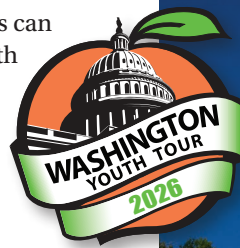


How 900 Words Led to an Unforgettable Experience

Three students from Tri-State EMC discovered how 900 words can change everything after attending the 2026 Washington Youth Tour (WYT). Sadie Deal from Copper Basin High School, Carter Johnson from Hiwassee Dam High School and Kaylee Trotter from Fannin County High School were among the 140 other student delegates from Tennessee who attended the weeklong trip June 13-19.

"Washington Youth Tour was an unforgettable experience," says Kaylee. "I had the opportunity to meet students from across the state and country, learn firsthand about our nation's history and government, and directly see how electric co-ops invest in young leaders. I'm incredibly grateful to Tri-State EMC for this trip."

Sadie, Carter and Kaylee participated in and won the Electric Cooperative Creative Writing Contest. It's available to students enrolled as high school juniors and live in an electric co-op service area. The students wrote a short story of 900 words explaining how co-ops are "Energizing Every Moment" by providing communities with energy, education, broadband, economic development and more. By showing the benefits of cooperative power, the students joined 2,000 other students from across the country in Washington, D.C., for the 2026 Washington Youth Tour.



Tri-State EMC delegates and chaperones at the U.S. Capitol.



Tri-State EMC Human Resources Manager Chris Hulse and Senior Billing Clerk Mitzi Stewart with Washington Youth Tour delegates Sadie Deal, Kaylee Trotter and Carter Johnson.

Each day of the Washington Youth Tour brought more impressive sights, opportunities for photos and lots of memories with other students who became lifelong friends. Among some of those activities were a tour of Monticello, the Smithsonian Institution, George Washington's Mount Vernon and numerous monument tours, including the Franklin Delano Roosevelt Memorial, Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial, Thomas Jefferson Memorial, Vietnam Veterans Memorial, Lincoln Memorial, Korean War Veterans Memorial and World War II Memorial.

Delegates also toured the U.S. Capitol and met representatives from Tennessee who advocate for electric co-ops and their communities. Other highlights included visiting the Spy Museum, seeing the Sunset Parade, viewing the musical "Mean Girls" at Toby's Dinner Theatre and watching the changing of the guard followed by the wreath-laying ceremony at the

Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in Arlington National Cemetery.

"Electric cooperatives are committed to investing in the next generation, and Washington Youth Tour is one of the most impactful ways we do that," says B.J. Bernard, Vice President of Member Services for the Tennessee Electric Cooperative Association (TECA) and WYT Director. "The trip combines leadership development, education and relationship-building in a way that leaves a lasting impression on students."

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.



2026 Annual Meeting of Members

Tri-State Electric Membership Corp.'s Annual Meeting of Members will be held in Fannin County High School Performing Arts Center on Saturday, September 19, 2026.

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, and results of the election of directors will be announced. Members will also consider other business that may properly come before the meeting.

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

**Join us for our 78th anniversary
on Saturday, September 19, 2026**



Holiday Office Closing

Tri-State EMC's office will be
closed Monday,
September 7, 2026,
in observance of Labor Day.