



Rural Electric Cooperative

Youth Tour



Montgomery Youth Tour

March 15 - 17, 2016

Washington, D.C. Youth Tour

June 10 - 16, 2016



Picture yourself here!



BALDWIN EMC

Your Touchstone Energy[®]
Cooperative



“...Sending youngsters to the national capital where they can actually see what the flag stands for and represents” - Lyndon Johnson



About Youth Tour:

The Rural Electric Youth Tour is a group of more than 1,500 high school students who visit their state capitals and Washington, D.C. year after year, from towns and small cities all over rural America. They come because their rural electric cooperatives think education is important — education about electric cooperatives and education about America.

Senator Lyndon Johnson inspired the Youth Tour when he addressed the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) Annual Meeting in Chicago in 1957. The senator declared, “If one thing goes out of this meeting, it will be sending youngsters to the national capital where they can actually see what the flag stands for and represents.”

Then, beginning in 1957, some of the Texas electric cooperatives sent groups of young people to Washington to work during the summer in Senator Johnson’s office and learn more about government in action.

In 1958, rural electric cooperatives in Iowa sponsored the first group of 34 young people on a week-long study tour of the nation’s capital. Later that same year, another busload of students went to

Washington, D.C., from Illinois. The idea grew, and other states sent young people throughout the summer. By 1959, the Youth Tour had grown to 130 students.

In 1964, NRECA began to coordinate the program and suggested that cooperative representatives from each state arrange to be in Washington, D.C., during Youth Tour week.

The first year of the coordinated tour included approximately 400 young people from 12 states. The idea has continued to grow, and today more than 1,500 young people and chaperones participate in Youth Tour each year.

Goals of the tour are to provide the opportunity for outstanding young people to:

- 1 *increase their understanding of the value of rural electrification;*
- 2 *become more familiar with the historical and political environment of the nation’s capital through visits to monuments, government buildings and cooperative organizations; and*
- 3 *visit elected officials to increase their knowledge of how the federal government works.*



What To Expect:

The Montgomery Youth Tour (March 15 - 17, 2016)

The Montgomery Youth Tour includes an all expense-paid, three-day trip to Montgomery, AL, where participants tour the state capitol, the State House and the Rosa Parks Museum among other sites and landmarks. Students also have the opportunity to interact with state legislators and cooperative representatives. More than 140 high school juniors representing 17 cooperatives throughout Alabama participate each year.

The Washington Youth Tour (June 10 - 16, 2016)

The Washington Youth Tour is an all-expense paid week in Washington, D.C. The tour includes visits to the Smithsonian, The Washington Monument, Arlington National Cemetery, The National Archives, The Jefferson and Lincoln Memorials, The White House and many other historical sites. Youth Tour participants also have the opportunity to visit with Senators and Representatives from our Congressional District. The tour is made up of more than 1,500 high school juniors from throughout the United States, including close to 50 students from Alabama.

The Rules:

- The contest is open to all high school juniors (11th graders) attending school in Baldwin County. The student must have a 2.5 grade-point average (GPA) or higher.
- Each student interested in participating should submit an application and essay consisting of two typed paragraphs on why they would be the best choice as a representative for Baldwin EMC.
- The essay must be double-spaced and the font size should be no larger than 12 point.



- On a separate page the student must demonstrate that they have an active interest in community, civic and extracurricular activities, as well as school activities.
- All applicants will be reviewed for eligibility. Top applicants who meet these criteria will be asked to come to Baldwin EMC's Summerdale office to be interviewed by an independent panel of judges. The judges will grade the applicants on their ability to best represent Baldwin EMC.
- The top four winners from the county will be awarded the trips to Montgomery, Alabama and Washington, D.C. and a \$500 Youth Tour scholarship. Four runners-up will be chosen to participate in Co-op Leadership Camp in July.
- All applications must be received at Baldwin EMC's Summerdale office by close of business on **December 18, 2015.**

"Only the Youth Tour could have made such a life-changing moment full of friendship, education, leadership, and diversity possible in the lives of me and my fellow delegates." Shuji Miller, Youth Tour alumnae

Touchstone Energy cooperatives serve their members with integrity, accountability, innovation and commitment to community.

Study Guide:

What is Baldwin EMC?

Baldwin EMC is a member-owned electric cooperative serving 69,000 meters throughout Baldwin County and southern Monroe County in southwestern Alabama. Baldwin EMC is now the largest electric cooperative in the state of Alabama and one of the fastest-growing electric cooperatives in the nation.

Experienced leadership combined with sound business principles has resulted in a strong, growing organization. We are proud of the accomplishments of the past and we constantly strive to improve our service and commitment to the communities we serve.

One of our trademarks as an organization is personal, local service at affordable rates. Our highly-skilled, motivated employees are local residents, who take pride in their work and who are involved in the communities they serve.

Through our state and national cooperative associations we have access to unlimited training resources and expertise in all areas that apply to our business operation.

We have some of the most advanced technology available in through our outage management system, which provides us state-of-the-art control over our electrical distribution system and minimizes outage time.

What is PowerSouth Energy Cooperative?

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative, PowerSouth Energy Cooperative is a \$1 billion generation and transmission cooperative headquartered in Andalusia, AL. Its member-owners include 16 distribution cooperatives in south and central Alabama and northwest Florida, and the Alabama municipalities of Andalusia, Brundidge, Elba and Opp. PowerSouth's 20 member-owners, including Baldwin EMC, distribute energy to residential, commercial and industrial customers in 39 counties in Alabama and 10 counties in northwest Florida.



What is Touchstone Energy?

Created in 1998, Touchstone Energy® is an alliance of more than 600 cooperatives in 45 states that collectively deliver power and energy solutions to millions of customers every day. In addition, Touchstone Energy® is a branding initiative that communicates electric cooperatives' unique characteristics in a changing marketplace where these values and differences matter more each day. Touchstone Energy® emphasizes the significance of each electric cooperative's local presence and unique ties to its community, but offers the resources of a nationwide network to bring added value and benefit to members.

What are Touchstone Energy's core values?

Touchstone Energy cooperatives serve their members with integrity, accountability, innovation and commitment to community.

What is the Alabama Rural Electric Association?

The Alabama Rural Electric Association (AREA) is an association formed by the trustees of nearly all electric cooperatives in Alabama so they can discuss common problems, share the benefits of their experiences and work together to protect cooperatives from outside groups who may not have the member-owners' best interest in mind.

AREA assists with the publication of Alabama Living magazine, which is sent to cooperative member-owners across the state. It also conducts meetings and workshops for cooperative trustees and employees, works closely with the state legislature and other agencies on matters that affect electric cooperatives, and coordinates the Youth Tour program.

A brief history of the REA

The Rural Electrification Administration (REA), a former agency of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, administered loan programs for electrification and telephone service in rural areas. The REA was created in 1935 by executive order as an independent federal bureau, authorized by the Congress in 1936, and in 1939 reorganized as a division of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The REA undertook the task to provide farms with affordable electric lighting and power. To implement those goals, the administration made long-term, self-liquidating loans to state and local governments, to farmers' cooperatives and to nonprofit organizations. No loans were made directly to consumers. In 1949, the REA was authorized to make loans for telephone improvements, and in 1988, REA was permitted to give interest-free loans for job creation and rural electric systems. By the early 1970s, about 98 percent of all farms in the United States had electric service, a demonstration of REA's success. When REA was created, only about 10 percent of all farms had electricity. The administration was abolished in 1994 and its functions assumed by the Rural Utilities Service (RUS).



What is NRECA?

The National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) is a service organization representing more than 1,000 rural electric systems in 46 states. Through NRECA, member systems have access to services which would otherwise be unavailable or too expensive for each system individually. By working together through NRECA, member systems are able to provide better services to their members at the lowest possible cost. NRECA is not supported by government funds nor is it an agency of the federal government.

What is CFC?

CFC, the National Rural Utilities Cooperative Finance Corporation, was organized by rural electric cooperatives on a national basis as a lending institution to make loan funds from the open money market available to cooperatives to supplement RUS loans.

What is a cooperative?

A cooperative is a business enterprise which is jointly owned and equally controlled by those who use it. It is a form of business more interested in service to people than in making dollars, though it must, of course, take in enough money to pay its way.

How is a cooperative not-for-profit?

The idea is quite simple. After all expenses are paid at the end of the year, any excess revenue (margins) are assigned on a prorated basis to the members who used and paid for electricity that year. The cooperative retains these funds, called capital credits, to use as operating funds. As the funds increase to the point that the cooperative has more than is needed for operation, those margins are refunded to the members.

Do cooperatives pay taxes?

Rural electric cooperatives pay taxes on the same basis as other businesses. The only tax cooperatives do not pay is income tax. There is no profit, so there is no income tax to pay.

For more information

Additional information on Baldwin EMC, cooperatives and rural electrification is available through your school library, public library and Baldwin EMC. You may also visit the following websites or use the Internet in your research:

www.baldwinemc.com

www.nreca.org

www.areapower.coop

www.touchstoneenergy.com

When are applications due?

Applications must be received by **4:30 p.m. on Friday, December 18, 2015**. Those selected for interviews will be contacted by mail and advised of their interview date and time. Interviews will be conducted in January 2015.

BEMC's Youth Tour coordinator can be contacted by calling (251) 989-0294.

Applications should be sent to: Baldwin EMC, Attn: Kim Frank, P.O. Box 220, Summerdale, AL, 36580

Interviewing Tips

You will be interviewed by a panel of three judges. They will ask you questions about Baldwin EMC, rural electric cooperatives, and current events. They may also ask you about your school activities, family, and college or career plans.

What to wear:

School uniforms are acceptable. Otherwise:

Boys: Suit or dress slacks with collared shirt

Girls: Dress, pantsuit, or dressy shirt with slacks or skirt

(No strapless or spaghetti straps. Skirts should not be inappropriately short.)

Helpful tips:

- Speak up.
- Make eye contact with the judges.
- Be personable.
- Sit up straight.
- Don't chew gum.
- No fidgeting.
- Be honest. If you don't know the answer, say, "I don't know" instead of guessing. If you need clarification of a question, you may ask the judges to restate the question.

The Scholarship

Baldwin EMC will provide each Youth Tour winner a \$500 non-renewable, one-year term scholarship. The award will be dispersed directly to the accredited school selected by the scholarship recipient, contingent and subject to the recipient graduating from high school and passing all required graduation exams. In order for the scholarship funds to be received to the benefit of the scholarship recipient, the student must enroll on a full-time basis at the institution selected.

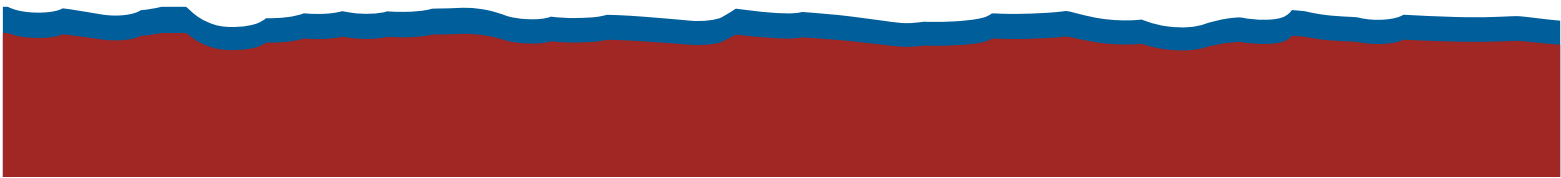
Teacher Incentive

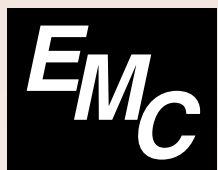
Sponsors of winning students will receive an award of \$500 dollars worth of their choice of educational materials to be purchased by Baldwin EMC. If a teacher serves as sponsor for more than one winning student, that teacher will receive \$500 total, not \$500 per student. If two or more teachers serve as co-sponsors for a winning student, those teachers will share the \$500 award. Selected students must have the teacher's name on their application prior to submitting.





Notes:





BALDWIN EMC

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This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.