

Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp

INTRODUCTION

For nearly three decades the electric cooperatives of Colorado, Kansas, and Wyoming have conducted an outstanding educational seminar known as the Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp. Every July, nearly 100 high school students travel to Clark, Colorado (north of Steamboat Springs) after being selected by their local cooperatives as participants.

The primary objective of the camp is to provide an educational experience for young people on the organization and operation of a cooperative. The seminar strives to help develop leadership skills that will assist students with the challenges they will face in the future.

The best way to learn about cooperatives is to form one, and that is what the participants do. When students arrive the first day, they form a cooperative and elect a board of directors. Each member of the cooperative is expected to take part in the workings of the co-op by seeking election to the board or by serving on one of the camp activity committees.

A number of special presentations are highlighted at the camp. Students learn electrical safety and how to prevent electrical shock. Professors for the U.S. Air Force Academy present an energy game that carries players into the future where they deal with the problems of energy supply and demand and the impact on the environment. Students will also participate in a legislative simulation and meet with several state congressmen and lobbyists.

The entire group will visit the Craig Station Power Plant, the largest electric generating station in Colorado, and the Trapper Coal Mine which supplies Craig.

Of course, there is plenty of time for recreation. Glen Eden Resort has volleyball courts, a swimming pool, hot tubs, and tennis courts. There will be nights by the campfire, dances, banquets, hot springs pool and pizza parties, trips to the top of Mt. Warner and to Fish Creek Falls, and time to explore Steamboat Springs, one of the premier ski resorts in the world.

Each local cooperative has its own qualifications for participation in the Leadership Camp. Most students are entering their senior year in the fall. If you are interested in attending the camp, see your high school counselor or give your local electric cooperative a call.

Electric Cooperative Youth Tour

INTRODUCTION

Every June more than 1,300 high school students from towns and small cities in rural America spend a week in the nation's capital as part of the National Rural Electric Youth Tour. The students are sponsored by electric cooperatives – cooperatives who are committed to educating America's rural youth about America and the role electric cooperatives play in developing strong rural communities.

Colorado's electric cooperatives sent about two dozen students to Washington, D.C. Students who participate on the tour learn about electric cooperatives, American history and U.S. government. The Colorado Rural Electric Association (CREA), in conjunction with the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA), organize the educational programs.

Colorado Youth Tour participants begin the tour in Denver where they learn about Colorado's state government and Colorado's cooperatives. From Denver, they fly to Washington where they attend educational seminars and visit with their representatives in the House and the Senate. Students also visit historic sites in Washington, D.C. – the Lincoln Memorial, Mount Vernon, Arlington Cemetery, and the Smithsonian, just to name a few. NRECA coordinates Youth Day where all Youth Tour participants get together and listen to prominent speakers and complete the day with a dinner dance.

Participating in the Youth Tour is a great way to learn about this great nation, develop leadership skills, gain a better understanding of electric cooperatives, and make friendships that will last beyond the week.

BACKGROUND

Senator Lyndon Johnson inspired the Youth Tour when he addressed the 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."

Consequently, 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, to 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 came to Washington from Illinois. The idea grew and other state sent busloads of young people throughout the summer. By 1959, the Youth Tour had grown to 159 youths.

In 1964, NRECA began to coordinate the program and suggested that co-op 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 1,400 young people and chaperones participate in the Youth Tour every year.

HOW TO PARTICIPATE

Colorado currently has 15 cooperatives who sponsor students for the Youth Tour. If a student is selected to participate, the cooperative pays for the students' round-trip airfare from Denver to Washington, D.C., lodging in Denver and Washington, D.C., admission tickets to sites, events, and meals. Students are responsible for any spending money they wish to bring to purchase souvenirs, postcards, snacks, etc. Students are also responsible for making travel arrangements to Denver – some cooperatives coordinate this for their students.

Contact your local cooperative to find out if they are a participant in the Youth Tour.

Students must fill out an application, complete an essay (topic maybe specified by local electric cooperative), and sign a Code of Conduct contract.



National Rural Electric Youth Tour and/or Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp

**Applications must be received in our office at the address listed below by 5:00 p.m. on
Friday, December 11, 2009:**

San Luis Valley Rural Electric Cooperative
3625 U.S. Hwy 160 West
Monte Vista, CO 81144

(please print or type)

I. General Information

NAME: _____
Last First Middle

ADDRESS: _____
Street Address

City State ZIP code

TELEPHONE NUMBER: () _____

BEST TIMES TO REACH YOU AT THIS NUMBER: _____

E-MAIL: _____

SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER: _____ DATE OF BIRTH: _____

PARENT/LEGAL GUARDIAN: _____

ADDRESS: _____
Street Address

City State ZIP code

TELEPHONE NUMBER: () _____

T-Shirt Size: _____

II. Academic and Extracurricular Activity Information

NAME OF SCHOOL: _____

CURRENT GRADE LEVEL: _____ **CUMULATIVE GPA (OUT OF 4.0)** _____

MAJOR STUDY INTEREST/PLANS FOR THE FUTURE:

EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES -- ACADEMIC, SPORTS, OFFICES HELD, ETC. -- USE ADDITIONAL SHEET(S) IF NECESSARY:

VOLUNTEER ACTIVITIES – USE ADDITIONAL SHEET(S) IF NECESSARY:

HOBBIES, TALENTS & SPECIAL INTERESTS – USE ADDITIONAL SHEET(S) IF NECESSARY:

**WHY SHOULD SLVREC SELECT YOU AS A REPRESENTATIVE OF OUR COOPERATIVE? USE
ADDITIONAL SHEET(S) IF NECESSARY**

III. Certification of Eligibility

I/we hereby certify that we are members of San Luis Valley Rural Electric Cooperative at the present time.

Location of electric service or account number of service or meter number at service:

Phone number at service address: _____

Signature of Member/Parent/Guardian _____ Date _____

Print Name of Member/Parent/Guardian _____

Signature of Member/Parent/Guardian _____ Date _____

Print Name of Member/Parent/Guardian _____

IV. Contest Submission

To compete for the trips, each student must address the two-part question below:

“What is a Cooperative & Why is it Beneficial to be a Member of a Cooperative”?

Students may use the media of their choice to express their ideas. Written essays, photo essays, artwork, videos and other media are all suitable entry formats. Entries will be judged on the basis of their creativity, quality, and their effectiveness in addressing the competition theme.

Medical Information

Please list any allergies for which you take medication, or any other medical condition for which medication would be needed for the trip. Also, please list any chronic or temporary medical conditions that the Tour chaperones should be aware of. Please note that this information will be used only for the purposes of the Youth Tour and will not be divulged for any other reason.

Medical Release & Publicity Form

I, the undersigned parent or guardian of

(full name)

give my consent for my student to participate in the Washington D.C. Youth Tour sponsored by our local electric cooperative, the Colorado Electric Educational Institute (CEEI), and the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA), and that at times my student may be traveling and/or participating in activities without the direct supervision of a chaperone.

I authorize and direct CEEI and NRECA, through their staffs and volunteer chaperones, to direct and supervise my student. I further request and authorize CEEI and NRECA, through their staffs and volunteer chaperones, to secure any medical or other emergency services the said staffs and volunteer chaperones in their reasonable discretion may deem necessary or desirable for my student while participating in the Washington D.C. Youth Tour.

I further give permission for CEEI, NRECA, or our local electric cooperative to use photographs, likenesses, and/or videotape images of my student for publicity purposes related to this activity.

Parent or Guardian's Signature

Date

Please Attach a Photocopy of the Front and Back of your Medical Insurance Card.

Code of Conduct

Please read these rules carefully. If these rules are broken you may be sent home at your PARENTS EXPENSE.

- You will be sharing a room with two other students. Please be considerate of your roommates.
- You may decide when to go to sleep each night, but you must be in your room by 11:00 p.m. and be on time each morning.
- Students are not allowed to leave the hotel premises without a chaperone.
- Male students are not permitted in female students' rooms, nor are female students permitted in male students' rooms. EVER!
- Smoking, alcoholic beverages, or illegal drugs are NOT allowed at anytime.
- Cell phones, I-Pods and other types of radio/music are not allowed to be used during Youth Tour activities. They may be used during free time.
- Participants must be clothed properly at all times.
- No destruction of property is allowed. Any damages incurred above and beyond normal wear and tear will be charged to the participant causing the damage.

I have read and understand the Code of Conduct. I understand that as a participant of the Washington D.C. Youth Tour I am a representative of my cooperative and must conduct myself appropriately at all times. I understand that I may be sent home, at my expense, from the Youth Tour if I do not comply with these policies.

Print Student's Name: _____

Student's Signature: _____

Parent/Legal Guardian's Name: _____

Parent/Legal Guardian's Signature: _____

Date: _____

Check List

- _____ Students complete pages 1 and the top half of page 2
- _____ Parents complete the bottom of page 2, and page 3
- _____ Student and parents complete page 4 and 5
- _____ Attach a wallet size picture to this application
- _____ Attach a copy of your medical insurance card

Return this information to your local electric cooperative.