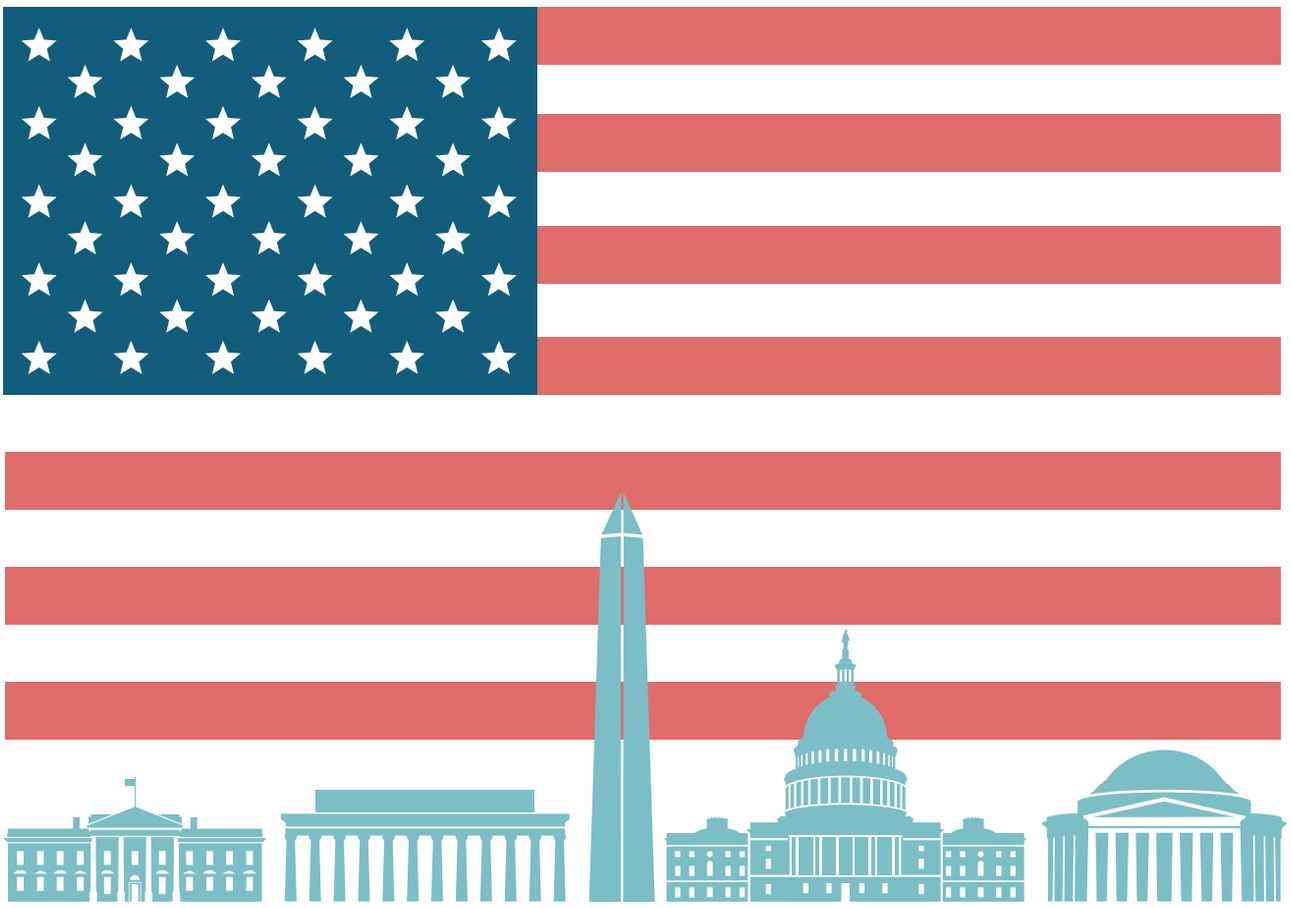
YOUTH TOUR

STUDY BOOK



COURTESY OF YOUR OKLAHOMA RURAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVES

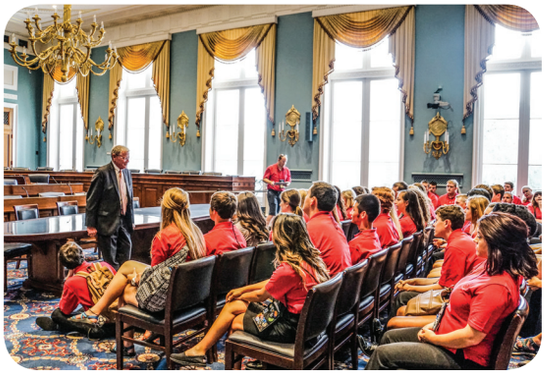
WHAT IS YOUTH TOUR?

Local rural electric cooperatives choose bright students each year to represent Oklahoma on Youth Tour to Washington, D.C. They will join more than 1,600 other students from co-ops across the nation on a weeklong, all-expenses-paid trip to tour national landmarks, meet with their congressional representatives and learn what it

Students meet and interact with Oklahoma Legislators and will learn the importance of current issues and policies.

1964

Senator Lyndon Baines Johnson spoke at the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association Annual Meeting where he inspired the start of Youth Tour. Nearly 400 students from 12 states participated in the first year of Youth Tour.



Connections and relationships will form during the weeklong trip and everlasting friendships will be created.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

means to be actively involved citizens. Participants are selected through an application and interview process during which judges look for excellent academic achievement and community leadership.

2018

Tour our Nation's Capitol by seeing historic monuments, memorials, museums, the White House and much more!

CONNECTION

LEADERSHIP

FRIENDSHIP

HISTORY

THE CO-OP ADVANTAGE &

Electric cooperatives are different from other forms of business, and member-owners of cooperatives notice this difference. Here's why:

- Co-ops put members first because the members are owners.
- Co-ops are locally owned and operated .
- When members call their co-op, they are talking with their local employees.

All of these aspects combined make co-ops more responsive because members are the owners, and each co-op is accountable to their neighbors and community. While focusing on member needs, cooperatives work for the sustainable development of their communities through programs, services and policies developed by member-elected boards. Co-ops are grounded on the premise of neighbors helping neighbors.

WHO WE ARE

DIFFERENCE

THE CO-OP PRINCIPLES

1 VOLUNTARY AND OPEN MEMBERSHIP

2 DEMOCRATIC MEMBER CONTROL

3 MEMBERS' ECONOMIC PARTICIPATION

4 AUTONOMY AND INDEPENDENCE

5 EDUCATION, TRAINING & INFORMATION

6 COOPERATION AMONG CO-OPS

7 CONCERN FOR COMMUNITY

CO-OP HISTORY & STRUC

As early as 1923, efforts were made to find out how electricity could be used to make rural areas more productive.

The unavailability of electricity in rural areas kept their economies entirely and exclusively dependent on agriculture. Factories and businesses, of course, preferred to locate in cities where electric power was easily acquired. For many years, power companies ignored the rural areas of the nation.

The idea of providing federal assistance to accomplish rural electrification gained ground rapidly when President Franklin D. Roosevelt took office in 1933. On May 11, 1935, Franklin D. Roosevelt signed **Executive Order No. 7037** establishing the Rural Electrification Administration (REA).

Today about 99 percent of the nation's farms have electric service. Most rural electrification is the product of locally owned rural electric cooperatives that got their start by borrowing funds from REA to build lines and provide service on a not-for-profit basis.

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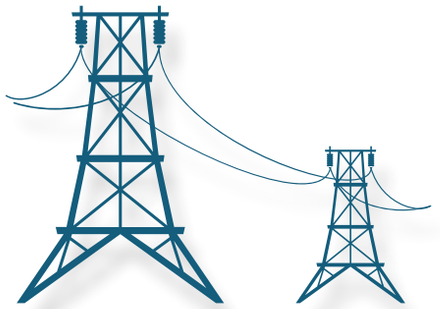
UCTURE

ELECTRIC CO-OP MEMBERS

DISTRIBUTION COOPERATIVES



GENERATION & TRANSMISSON COOPERATIVES

OAEC
(statewide association)

NRECA
(national association)

LENDING BODIES (RUS & CFC)

LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS (STATE AND NATIONAL)

STATEWIDE & NATIONWI

OKLAHOMA ASSOCIATION OF ELECTRIC COOPERATIVES (OAEC)

OAEC is a non-profit, statewide service association created and voluntarily supported by local electric distribution and generation/transmission cooperatives. OAEC is comprised of 29 member systems: 27 Oklahoma and two Arkansas systems that have a portion of their membership residing in Oklahoma.

LEGISLATIVE CONNECTIONS.

OAEC believes in keeping a strong connection at the Oklahoma State Capitol. OAEC serves as a liaison with state and national legislative and executive branches of government.

SAFETY. OAEC provides a Safety and Loss Control department where staff is committed to provide programming that emphasizes safe working practices for the well being of rural electric cooperative employees, the membership and the public.

COMMUNITY. Each year, Oklahoma's Electric Cooperatives and employees organize, sponsor and volunteer in several youth-oriented events, such as Youth Tour, Energy Camp and Special Olympics. This involvement helps make electric cooperatives valuable in communities around Oklahoma.

Photo provided by Hayley Leatherwood, Oklahoma Living Magazine

VIDE ASSOCIATIONS

NATIONAL RURAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE ASSOCIATION (NRECA)

NRECA was founded on March19, 1942, by 10 men concerned with the problems confronting rural electric cooperatives. They envisioned NRECA would unite rural electric systems under one banner to protect their interests and provide support to help them serve rural America. NRECA is one of the largest rural-oriented cooperative organizations in the United States. It is the national service organization for more than 900 rural electric systems, which provide power to more than 42 million people in 47 states.

TOUCHSTONE ENERGY®.

Touchstone Energy® is a nationwide alliance of locally owned and operated electric cooperatives, which collectively provide enhanced services and resources to their residential and business customers.

CO-OP FAST FACTS

- Cimarron Electric Cooperative was the first Oklahoma electric cooperative.
- Oklahoma's Electric Cooperatives serve nearly 500,000 consumer-members in the state's 77 counties.
- OAEC was established in 1942 to represent and support Oklahoma's 27 electric cooperatives.
- OAEC produces a statewide magazine named *Oklahoma Living*, which is sent to every member of an electric cooperative making it the largest subscription-based, monthly publication in Oklahoma.
- More than 140 volunteers from electric co-ops across Oklahoma participate each year in the Oklahoma Special Olympics.
- Energy Camp is another youth program electric co-ops sponsor select more than 80 eighth graders to enjoy summer camp with an electric co-op emphasis.

GENERATION & TRANSMI

WESTERN FARMERS.

Western Farmers Electric Cooperative (WFEC) is a Generation and Transmission (G&T) electric cooperative based in Anadarko, Okla., providing electric service to 21 member distribution cooperatives in Oklahoma and New Mexico, Altus Air Force Base, and other power users. WFEC was founded by distribution co-op systems 75 years ago and has grown into Oklahoma's largest locally owned power supply system. The cooperative was organized in 1941, when western Oklahoma rural electric distribution cooperatives found it necessary to secure an adequate power supply at rates farmers and rural industrial developers could afford.

Today, WFEC has six generating facilities located at Mooreland, Anadarko and Hugo, Okla., and Lovington, N.M., with total power capacity of more than 2,400 megawatts, when purchased hyrdopower is included. WFEC has 3,700 miles of transmission line to over 330 sub and switch stations. WFEC has enabled the development of several wind farms and solar gardens in Oklahoma and New Mexico.

KAMO POWER.

KAMO Electric Cooperative, Inc., was one of the first regional generation and transmission electric cooperatives formed under the Rural Electrification Act of 1936, and is named after the four states where it was established to operate - Kansas, Arkansas, Missouri and Oklahoma.

Today, KAMO serves 17 member distribution cooperatives spanning 43 counties in two states - southwest Missouri and northeast Oklahoma.

KAMO's workforce is strategically situated to operate and maintain its nearly 2,700 miles of high-voltage transmission system and over 275 substations.

KAMO employs nearly 200 highly skilled

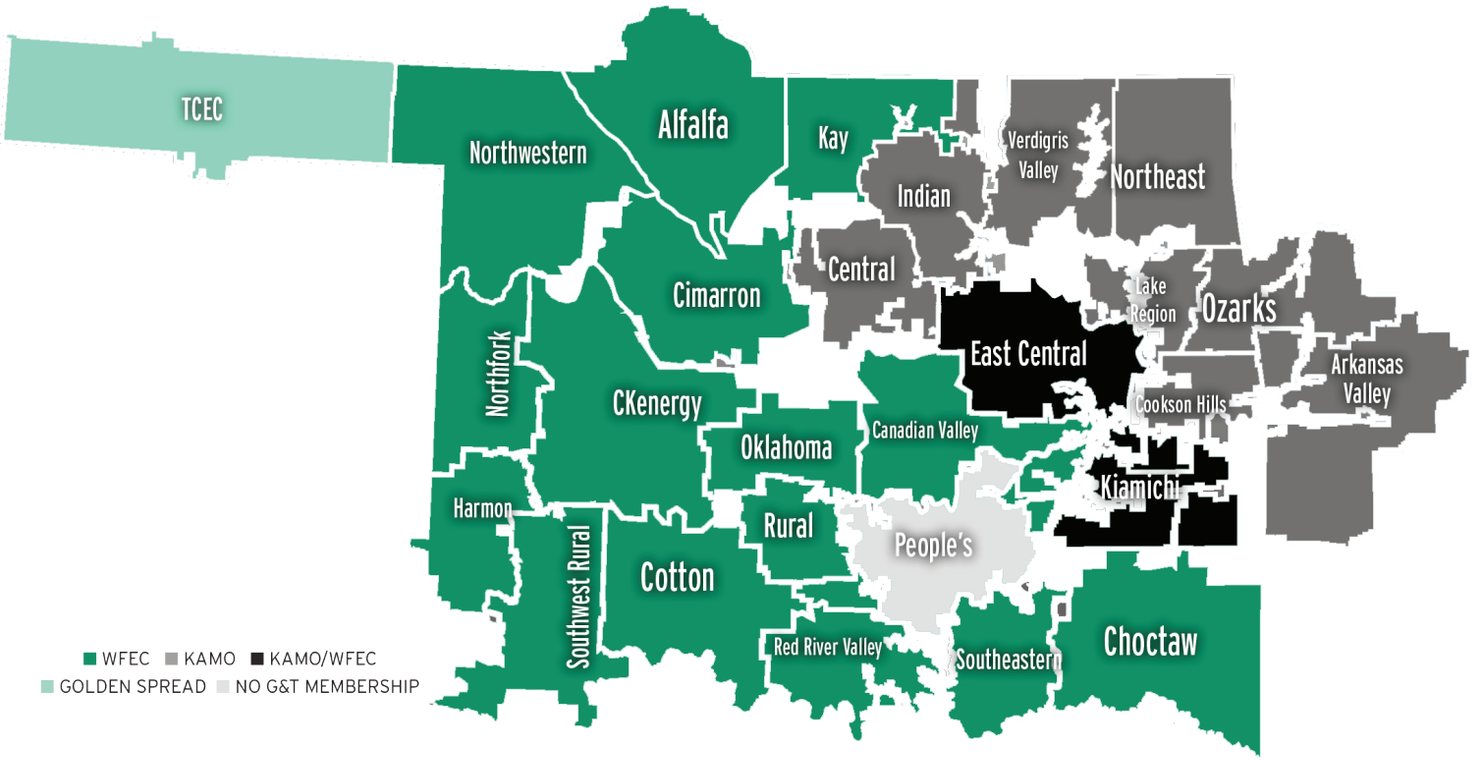
MISSION CO-OPS

technical, professional and administrative personnel at its headquarters and a service center in Vinita, Okla.; area offices in El Dorado Springs, Neosho and Spokane, MO.; and area offices in Cleveland, Collinsville, Muskogee and Stillwater, Okla.

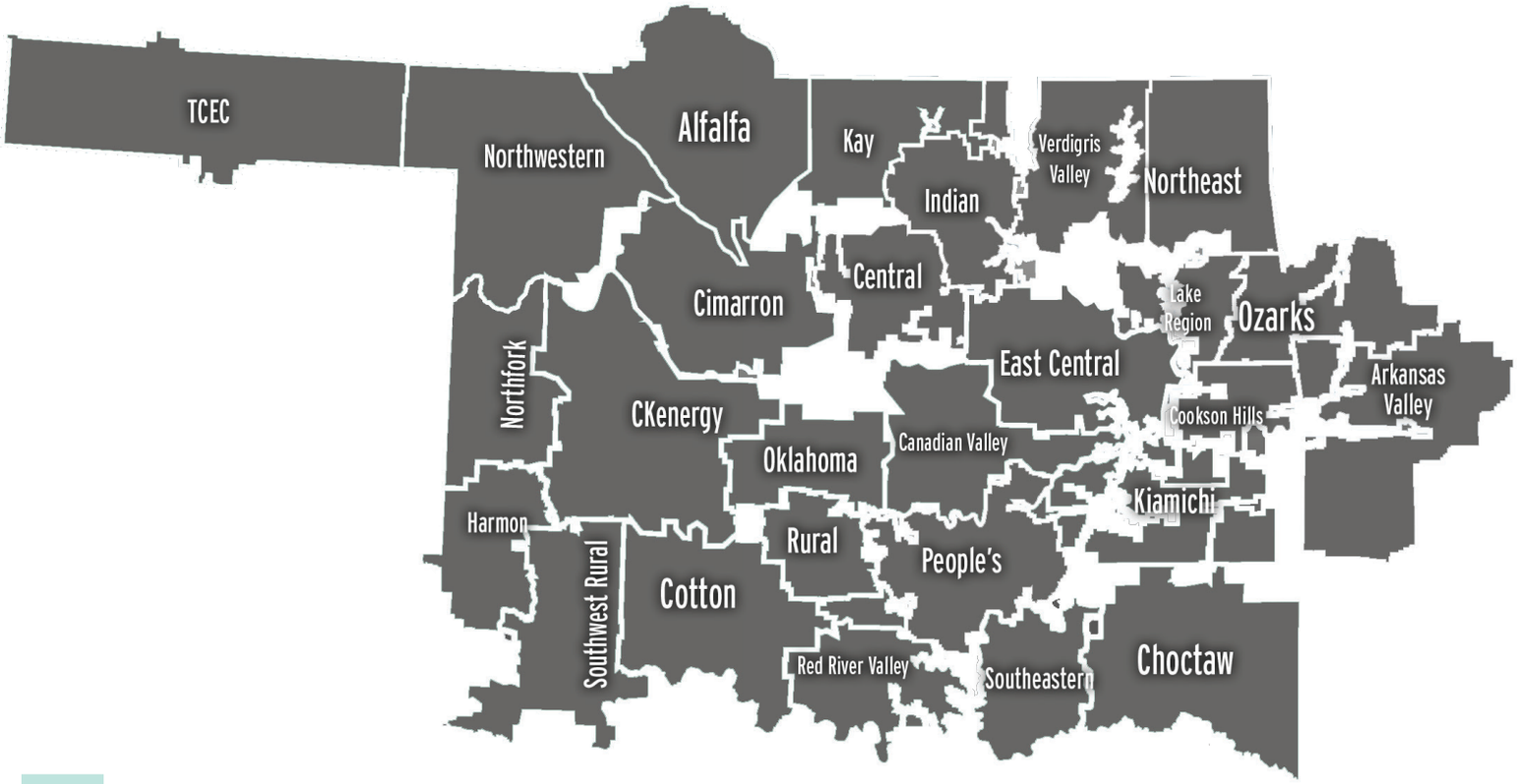
GOLDEN SPREAD.

Golden Spread Electric Cooperative, Inc., provides electric service to 16 member cooperatives located in the Oklahoma panhandle and an area covering 24 percent of the Texas panhandle, South Plains and Edwards Plateau regions.

Golden Spread has six natural gas fired generating units at Mustang Station located near Denver City, Texas with total capability of nearly 1,000 MW. At Antelope Elk Energy Center, located near Abernathy, Texas, Golden Spread has 168 MWs made up of 18 quick start natural gas engines and three quick start natural gas fired combustion turbines.



DISTRIBUTION COOPERAT



Electric cooperatives are private, not-for-profit corporations owned by their consumer-members. They are similar in concept to other consumer-owned businesses; including farm produce, marketing co-ops and news-gathering and reporting co-ops like the Associated Press.

OUR MEMBERS. Each consumer of a electric cooperative is a member-owner and has the right to:

- Have a vote in the affairs of the cooperative.
- Elect directors to serve on a board of trustees.
- Recieve an allocated "margin" in the form of capital credits when economically feasible.

CO-OP STATS AND FIGURES

OPERATING STATISTICS (DISTRIBUTION COOPERATIVES)

Total Miles of Distribution Line:	116,609
Total Number of Active Meters:	627,980
Residential:	516,984 ..... 82.32%
Seasonal Residential:	18,552 ..... 2.95%
Commercial:	83,967 ..... 13.37%
Industrial:	1,819 ..... 0.29%
Irrigation:	2,876 ..... 0.46%

DISTRIBUTION COOPERATIVE FAST FACTS

ALFALFA
3,255 miles of line
8,228 active meters
52 full-time employees

ARKANSAS VALLEY
8,282 miles of line
57,781 active meters
152 full-time employees

CANADIAN VALLEY
5,243 miles of line
24,331 active meters
65 full-time employees

CENTRAL
4,304 miles of line
24,593 active meters
89 full-time employees

CHOCTAW
3,569 miles of line
18,495 active meters
79 full-time employees

CIMARRON
4,599 miles of line
15,787 active meters
49 full-time employees

CKENERGY
7,725 miles of line
25,230 active meters
103 full-time employees

COOKSON HILLS
2,921 miles of line
17,785 active meters
53 full-time employees

COTTON
5,151 miles of line
22,104 active meters
88 full-time employees

EAST CENTRAL
6,210 miles of line
33,334 active meters
74 full-time employees

HARMON
1,939 miles of line
3,587 active meters
18 full-time employees

INDIAN
3,629 miles of line
19,423 active meters
81 full-time employees

KAY
2,262 miles of line
5,876 active meters
53 full-time employees

KIAMICHI
4,134 miles of line
21,286 active meters
45 full-time employees

LAKE REGION
3,068 miles of line
24,482 active meters
72 full-time employees

NORTHEAST OK
5,294 miles of line
38,712 active meters
187 full-time employees

NORTHFORK
2,578 miles of line
6,829 active meters
38 full-time employees

NORTHWESTERN
4,985 miles of line
11,941 active meters
52 full-time employees

OKLAHOMA
5,450 miles of line
52,534 active meters
132 full-time employees

OZARKS
6,766 miles of line
71,580 active meters
192 full-time employees

PEOPLE'S
4,866 miles of line
22,137 active meters
68 full-time employees

RED RIVER VALLEY
2,715 miles of line
15,672 active meters
42 full-time employees

RURAL
2,954 miles of line
11,438 active meters
49 full-time employees

SOUTHEASTERN
2,719 miles of line
14,200 active meters
33 full-time employees

SOUTHWEST RURAL
3,075 miles of line
7,835 active meters
32 full-time employees

TRI-COUNTY (TCEC)
4,937 miles of line
23,467 active meters
107 full-time employees

VERDIGRIS VALLEY
4,757 miles of line
36,126 active meters
95 full-time employees

HOW ARE CO-OPS FUND

Electric cooperatives are funded by lending bodies, such as the Rural Utility Service (RUS) and the National Rural Utilities Cooperative Finance Corporation (CFC).

RURAL UTILITY SERVICE.

RUS is an agency in the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) that makes loans to finance electric and telephone facilities in rural areas. RUS offers several types of financing for electric cooperatives: **Municipal Rate Loan**, **Hardship Loan** and **Treasury Rate Loan.** RUS is headed by an Administrator and assigned responsibility for electric and telephone loan programs formerly performed by the Rural Electrification administration. **No federal tax money is involved in RUS loans.**

WHAT IS YOUTH LEADERS

During Youth Tour, a student is selected to represent Oklahoma on the **NRECA Youth Leadership Council (YLC)**. The student representative returns to Washington, D.C., in July for a leadership workshop, which focuses on the electric cooperative industry.

In order to qualify, a student must be a selected Youth Tour participant from an Oklahoma electric co-op. Applicants will write an essay and interview with a panel of judges. The winner will be announced at the Oklahoma Youth Tour banquet and represent Oklahoma during Youth Tour when each state comes together for Youth Day in Washington, D.C.

NDED?

COOPERATIVE FINANCE CORPORATION.

The National Rural Utilities Cooperative Finance Corporation is a non-profit, co-op financing institution that provides its member-systems with an independent source of loan funds as a supplement to loans made by RUS. Incorporated in 1969, CFC is owned by its 1,054 member rural electric systems, 902 of which are distribution systems. CFC has a 23 member board of directors representing 11 districts from across the country.

USDA Rural Development
Committed to the future of rural communities.

CFC

RSHIP COUNCIL?

The Oklahoma YLC representative will have several duties throughout their year. Such duties include attending the leadership workshop in Washington, D.C., where they will prepare a 5-7 minute speech about what inspired them during their Youth Tour trip. This speech will be presented at the OAEC Annual Meeting in April and at the NRECA Annual Meeting. The YLC representative will also be "on call" throughout the year to help Oklahoma electric cooperatives promote Youth Tour in their school districts.

Interested? Contact your local youth programs coordinator for more information. *(See next page for coordinator information.)*

Photo provided by National Rural Electric Cooperative Association

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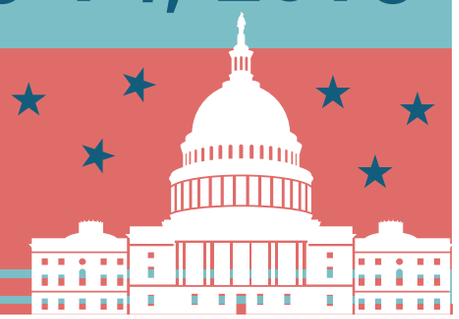
@OKYOUTHTOUR

COURTESY OF OKLAHOMA'S RURAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVES

YOUTH TOUR APPLICATION

JUNE 8-14, 2018

Oklahoma Youth Tour is an annual, weeklong, all-expense paid trip to Washington D.C., for highschool students selected and sponsored by their local rural electric cooperative.



I would like to apply for the 2018 Oklahoma Youth Tour. I am a high school junior and understand the material I submit in this contest becomes the property of the Oklahoma Association of Electric Cooperatives for use at its discretion. I agree to abide by the rules of the contest and the judges.

Name (as appears on drivers license)

Birthdate: (Month/Day/Year) / /

Cooperative

Gender:
M / F (circle one)

High School

T-Shirt Size:
S M L XL 2XL 3XL (circle one)

( ) -

Student Cell Phone

Polo Size:
S M L XL 2XL 3XL (circle one)

Student Email

Home Mailing Address City State Zip

Parent/Guardian Name(s):

Parent/Guardian Cell Phone:

Parent/Guardian Email:

NOTES

INVESTING IN THE LEADERS *of* TOMORROW

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Participants are selected through an application and interview process during which judges look for excellent academic achievement and community leadership. To learn more about Youth Tour, contact your rural electric cooperative.

Oklahoma Association of Electric Cooperatives

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