



YOUTH TOUR

2019



Clarke-Washington Electric
Membership Corporation

WHAT IS YOUTH TOUR?

The Rural Electric Youth Tour is a group of more than 1,600 high school students who visit Washington D.C., every June from all over America. They come because the people who lead electric cooperatives believe education is important-education about electric cooperatives and education about America.

Clarke-Washington EMC has been sending high school students from southwest Alabama to Youth Tour since the early 70s.

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

- ~Increase their understanding of the value of rural electrification;

- ~Become more familiar with the historical and political environment of the nation's Capitol through visits to monuments, government buildings and museums;

- ~Visit elected officials to increase their knowledge of how the federal government works.



AM I ELIGIBLE TO COMPETE?

Of course! Any high school junior from the Clarke-Washington area is eligible to participate in the competition. You DO NOT have to be a member of CWEMC!

HOW ARE THE PARTICIPANTS SELECTED?

Those interested in participating are required to write an essay. All essays will be reviewed and the top essay winners will be asked to come in for an interview. The top four winners will attend the Alabama Rural Electric Association's Montgomery Youth Tour.

The top two winners will have the opportunity to join other students around Alabama and fly to Washington D.C. for an all expense paid, weeklong trip.



HELPFUL LINKS

cwemc.com

nreca.com

powersouth.com

cooperative.com

areapower.coop

touchstoneenergy.com

youthtour.org

Look for more Alabama

Youth Tour pages on

Instagram and Facebook.



INTERVIEW TIPS

Interview questions will consist of questions about Clarke-Washington EMC, electric cooperatives, and current events. You may also be asked about school activities, family, and college or career plans. The judges will be considering your knowledge of cooperatives, communication skills, poise and appearance.

Always remember to speak up, do not chew gum during the interview, make eye contact with the judges and be personable.

THE RULES

- 1.** High school juniors who attend school in the Clarke-Washington area are eligible to participate in the competition. You **DO NOT** have to be a member.
- 2.** Students must research and submit an essay of 500 words or more on the topic below:
In 1936, REA (Clarke-Washington EMC) brought electricity to your rural area. Could this same model be applied today to bring broadband to your home? If so, how would you convince your neighbors to sign up?
- 3.** The essay must be typed and the font size should be no larger than 12 point. The essays will not be returned to students.
- 4.** Students should write their school name followed by the last four digits of their social security number on the front page of their essay, **NOT** their name. This allows for anonymity when judges review each essay.
Judges will select the top essayist to participate in the interview portion of the contest. Essay winners will then be notified.
- 5.** The finalist will compete in an interview competition. The judges will challenge their knowledge of the Youth Tour program, Clarke-Washington EMC, the electric cooperative industry and the communities where they live.
The interview will be held at Clarke-Washington EMC's new office just north of Jackson beginning at 9 a.m. Please dress in business attire.

DATES TO REMEMBER

January 9

January 23

March 12-14

June 14-20

Essay due to Guidance Counselor

Interviews at CWEMC in Jackson

Montgomery Youth Tour

Washington Youth Tour

WHAT IS A CO-OP?

A cooperative is a business that belongs to the people who use it--people who have organized the co-op to provide themselves with the goods and services they need.

A cooperative operates for the benefit of its members.

These member-owners share equally in the control of their cooperative. They meet at regular intervals, review detailed reports and elect directors from among themselves. The directors in turn hire managers to tend to the daily affairs of the cooperative in a way that serves the members' best interests.

CLARKE-WASHINGTON EMC:

In July of 1937, the newly organized Clarke-Washington Electric Membership Corporation activated its first lines and turned on the electric lights in rural areas.

Less than 10 percent of rural homes in Alabama had electricity at the time.

On May 11, 1935, President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed an executive order, which created the Rural Electrification Administration. REA, as the new agency was known, would lend power companies low interest money to extend power lines into rural areas.

In many cases, power companies said they could not make a profit for their stockholders by supplying electricity in rural areas where they would have fewer customers per mile of line than in the cities and towns.

And so, rural people formed their own cooperatives

and borrowed money from the REA to construct and operate their own power systems. The first of these rural electric cooperatives to be organized in Alabama was Clarke-Washington EMC.

First REA loan in Alabama

On Sept. 5, 1936, CWEMC received the first Rural Electric Administration loan in the state of Alabama for building rural electric lines. The \$65,000 loan enabled the cooperative to start installing lines and other facilities necessary to begin serving its members. The first pole was set just south of Salitpa, near Beckham's Landing on July 10, 1937, and soon the first lines were energized.

Steady growth

Initially, the cooperative served just 83 members with 79.2 miles of line. Today, CWEMC serves around 20,000 meters on some 4,000 miles of line in Clarke, Washington, Monroe and Wilcox County.

How is a cooperative non-profit?

Members invest in the cooperative business to provide capital for a strong and efficient operation. All net savings left (after the co-op's bills are paid and money is set aside for operations and improvements) are returned to co-op members. These funds are called Capital Credits.

For more information or questions contact:

CWEMC's Youth Tour Coordinator

Sarah Hansen

1-800-323-9081

s.hansen@cwemc.com