



## YOUTH TOUR

**EACH JUNE, ECI REC SPONSORS TWO HIGH SCHOOL SOPHOMORE OR JUNIORS ON THIS ALL-EXPENSES-PAID TRIP TO WASHINGTON,**

Iowa's locally owned electric cooperatives have been sending high school students to Washington D.C. every June since 1958.

A joint effort of local electric co-ops such as ECI REC, the Iowa Association of Electric Cooperatives (IAEC), and the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA), the Youth Tour sends around 40 Iowa students on this experience annually. Iowa students join around 1,800 others from around the country for a week of visiting historical sites, meeting congressional leaders, and learning about American history and government.

## CONTACT INFORMATION

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## HOURS

MONDAY-FRIDAY:  
7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.  
Closed Saturdays, Sundays, and holidays



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**East-Central Iowa Rural Electric Cooperative**  
*is an equal opportunity provider and employer.*

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# ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE YOUTH TOUR

 **ECI REC**  
Energy Wise, Community Connected

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

## TO BE ELIGIBLE

A STUDENT MUST BE A SOPHOMORE OR JUNIOR IN HIGH SCHOOL AND MUST HAVE PARENTS OR LEGAL GUARDIANS WHO ARE MEMBERS OF ECI REC.

## HOW TO APPLY

Applications for this leadership development opportunity are taken starting each November, with the deadline in February of the following year. Applications, questionnaires, and essay topics will be available at [ecirec.coop](http://ecirec.coop), from high school guidance counselors, or by emailing [iowayouthtour@ecirec.coop](mailto:iowayouthtour@ecirec.coop).

## INCREDIBLE OPPORTUNITIES

The Youth Tour introduces students to influential policymakers and takes them to visit key landmarks in and around Washington, D.C. Previous Youth Tour participants have met Sens. Chuck Grassley and Joni Ernst, as well as Reps. Cindy Axne, Rod Blum, Abby Finkenauer, Steve King, Dave Loebsack, and David Young. The senators and representatives answered questions and offered valuable insight on taxes, Social Security, the economy, the environment, energy, and internships in Washington, D.C.

Past tours have included visits to the Washington Monument, Lincoln Memorial, Jefferson Memorial, Franklin Delano Roosevelt Memorial, Arlington National Cemetery, World War II Memorial, Vietnam Veterans Memorial, Korean War Memorial, Iwo Jima Monument, National Archives, Smithsonian Air and Space Museum, U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum, Museum of Art, Museum of American History, Museum of Natural History, Madame Tussaud's Wax Museum, Washington National Cathedral, Mount Vernon, Library of Congress, Supreme Court, Capitol Hill, and the White House.



Connor Roth of Luzerne, sponsored by ECI REC, served on the YLC for the 2010-11 term. "Being part of NRECA's Annual Meeting was an amazing experience," Roth said. "I learned so much about the energy industry and how public policy affects it. I also met people from all across the country. It was an amazing experience."

## IAEC MAGAZINE ESSAY CONTEST

After applying for ECI REC's Youth Tour program - another opportunity for high school students to win an expenses-paid trip on the Youth Tour is the Iowa Association of Electric Cooperatives' *Iowa Electric Cooperative Living* magazine essay contest. This contest is open to current sophomores, juniors or seniors whose parents or guardians are members of ECI REC or any of the other 36 IAEC member cooperatives.

## YOUTH LEADERSHIP COUNCIL

The Youth Leadership Council (YLC) is an extension of the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour. Every year, one Youth Tour participant is selected from each participating state to make up the YLC.

YLC representatives are announced each year on the Youth Tour. In July, they return for a week-long summer leadership conference in Washington, D.C., covering topics such as the cooperative business model, grassroots advocacy, community service, and careers in public service. The following year during the NRECA's Annual Meeting, the YLC participates in educational forums and becomes familiar with national issues affecting electric cooperatives and the consumers they serve.



Kaylee Kleitsch and Jacob Ludeking were sponsored by ECI REC in 2019. They participated in leadership training, engaged in conversations with elected officials, jumpstarted their national peer network, learned about electric cooperatives, and toured Washington, D.C.

## PAST PARTICIPANTS

2019 Jacob Ludeking, Benton Community HS, and Kaylee Kleitsch, Wapsie Valley HS

2018 Sarah Collison, East Buchanan HS, and Brock Ortner, Vinton-Shellsburg HS

2017 Macy Arbuckle, Homeschool, and Cade Shramek, Prairie HS

2016 Jamie Thompson, Vinton-Shellsburg HS, and Kirstie Martin, Independence HS

2015 Bristian Gerber, Vinton-Shellsburg HS, and Zachary Fischels, Independence HS

**IAEC essay contest winner** - Morgan Weber, Jesup HS

2014 Olivia Oltrogge, Vinton-Shellsburg HS, and Caitlin Kruckenberg, Vinton-Shellsburg HS

2013 Ben Hyland, Vinton-Shellsburg HS, and Rachel Wheelock, Independence HS

2012 Dalton Schmit, Jesup HS, and Parker Oltrogge, Vinton-Shellsburg HS

2011 Dustin Toale, Independence HS, and Logan Halverson, Independence HS

2010 Connor Roth, Belle Plaine HS, and Nicole Thompson, Vinton-Shellsburg HS

2009 Lindsay Kelty, Center Point-Urbana HS, and Cally Bengston, Jesup HS

2008 Carly Kelty, Center Point-Urbana HS, and Michelle Hunter, Independence HS