

2026 Youth Tour Essay Questions

Note: In addition to the essay questions, applicants are also required to complete the Youth Tour ***Application and Parent/Legal Guardian Permission Form*** (document #CS-0032).

For your convenience, these forms can be completed and submitted electronically. Simply go to ecirec.coop and click on the “**Apply Now**” graphic located in the lower left of ECI REC’s home page.

Please answer the following questions. Try to limit your answer to 150 words.

1. Why do you desire to win this contest and what do you expect to gain from it?

2. What are the biggest energy issues that your generation will face?

3. Rural electric cooperatives strive to help their members achieve all the benefits of our democratic society and a quality way of life. If you look into the future, what new services might the REC be providing for its members?

4. Why were cooperatives formed and what makes them different than an investor-owned utility?

5. East-Central Iowa Rural Electric Cooperative (ECI REC) was formed by the consolidation of two electric cooperatives. One cooperative celebrated 85 years of service in 2021 and the other cooperative in 2022. List the two cooperatives that formed ECI REC, the year the merger took place, and the approximate number of member-accounts ECI REC is serving today.

6. How will America meet its future energy needs?

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