

Local High School Students Win Trip to Nation's Capital

a Community Connected update

OLIVIA OLTROGGE OF SHELLSBURG AND CAITLIN KRUCKENBERG OF GARRISON recently participated in the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour of Washington, D.C., sponsored by ECI REC. They spent June 13-19 in D.C. with 32 peers from Iowa.

Each year in June, an action-filled week provides high school students opportunities to learn first hand what it is like to be involved in politics, community service, and today's pressing issues in the energy industry. This year students were introduced to their elected representatives in the U.S. House and Senate, saw historic sites, and met nearly 1,600 students from across the country who participated in their states' Youth Tour programs.

The Electric Cooperative Youth Tour has been a joint effort of local electric co-ops such as ECI REC, their statewide co-op associations, and the National Rural

Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) based in Arlington, Virginia, for 50 years. Since 1964, they have sponsored more than 50,000 high school juniors and seniors for visits to their U.S. congressional delegations, energy and grassroots

"I made friends from nearly every state and experienced history first hand." - Caitlin Kruckenberg

government education sessions, and sightseeing in Washington.

"The Youth Tour was so amazing," said Kruckenberg. "It was really cool to meet my senator and representative, and learn about politics up close. Plus, I made friends from nearly every state and experienced history first hand. It really made me think about what it means to be an American and shows that people my age do care about this country."

In addition to taking in the sights of the nation's capital, all the state groups convened for the Rural Electric Youth Day, sponsored by NRECA, to learn from public figures and other inspirational speakers. This year's Youth Day agenda included Mike Schlappi, a four-time Paralympic medalist and two-time world wheelchair basketball champion. Schlappi shared his inspiring message for every American, young or old: "Just because you can't stand up, doesn't mean you can't stand out." Kruckenberg remarked, "I will never forget the lessons I have learned and the friendships I have formed. I would most definitely recommend this trip to anyone!"

If you are interested in participating in next year's Youth Tour program, contact ECI REC toll free at 877-850-4343 or visit our Youth Tour page under Community & Youth at ecirec.coop.


Since 1964, the nation's electric

Keep Your Bill Under Control This Winter

by Frank Weber, member services director | an Energy Wise article

East-Central Iowa REC offers a special Heat Plus heating rate that can save qualifying members up to 50% on winter heating bills. This rate is currently 0.0485 per kWh and is available from October 1 to May 31. To qualify for the special rate, your heating system must:

- Be electric and be metered separately.
- Use the primary electric heating source first, with the back-up system operating only when the primary system is unable to satisfy the indoor thermostat setting.
- Use the primary electric system to heat an area of 400 square feet or more.
- Use a premium-grade, 50-gallon electric water heater to provide 100% of the domestic water heating for the home (except for the energy supplied from an electric heat pump desuperheater).

Call to see if your home, office, business, or shop qualifies for these savings. 

cooperatives have sponsored more than 50,000 high school juniors and seniors for visits to the capital. NRECA is the national service organization representing the nation's more than 900 consumer-owned, not-for-profit electric cooperatives. For more information about the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour Program, please visit www.nreca.coop/what-we-do/youth-programs. 



Photo credit: IAEC