



**HIGH SCHOOL
JUNIORS**

Explore the...



WHITE HOUSE



VIETNAM WALL

...and so much more

June 14-20, 2026

Win a \$1,000 scholarship and **all-expense paid** trip to Washington, D.C. with thousands of other students from across the U.S. where you'll meet elected officials, learn about electric cooperative, tour museums, visit national landmarks and other places ingrained in American culture.

The applicant with the top score will receive an all-expense paid trip to Washington, D.C. This student will represent Howard Electric Cooperative and the State of Missouri at the National Youth Tour Conference in Washington, D.C. In addition, the Youth Tour winner will receive a \$1,000 scholarship awarded their sophomore year of college.

Apply Now!



sponsored by

Howard Electric Cooperative

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

2026 Official Youth Tour Contest Rules

1. Entries may be submitted by high school juniors attending school in Howard Electric Cooperative's service area (*HEC employees or directors children, grandchildren, brothers or sisters are not eligible*).
2. Application must be completed in full.
3. Entries must be received by **February 20th, at the Howard Electric Cooperative office.**
 - You may deliver them to the HEC office (located at 205 Hwy 5 and 240 N. Fayette, MO 65248).
 - Mail them to: YOUTH TOUR COORDINATOR, Howard Electric Cooperative, P.O. Box 391 Fayette, MO 65248.
4. Applications will be scored on the following criteria:
 - Application Neatness
 - High School Activities
 - Public Speaking Experience
 - Writing Experience
 - Short Essay

3 Finalists will be invited to have a short interview at the HEC office.

Q. What is the Youth Tour?

A. More than 1,500 students from all across America travel to Washington, D.C., where they will meet U.S. Representatives and Senators. This unique trip will give you the opportunity to watch history come alive as you explore the museums, memorials and monuments with students from your state. You will meet student leaders from nearly every state and hear dynamic leaders on Youth Day.

Q. Who is eligible for the contest?

A. Entries may be submitted by high school juniors whose families are members of the cooperative or all high school juniors who attend schools in Howard Electric Cooperative's service area are eligible. Children, grandchildren, brothers or sisters of employees or current board members are not eligible.

Q. What is the deadline and dates for contest entries?

A. Entries must be received by February 20th, at the Howard Electric office.

Q. How are finalists selected?

A. If there are more than 3 entries, a preliminary judging committee will score each application submitted based on: **Application Neatness** (5 points). **High School Activities** (10 points). **Public Speaking Experience** (10 points). **Writing Experience** (10 points). **Short Essay** (15 points). The 3 students with the highest preliminary scores are selected as finalists. The preliminary score will carry with you as part of your overall contest score.

Q. What do I do if I am selected as a finalist?

A. Finalists will be notified prior to March 6, 2026 to setup a date and time for the interview. The final judging will be based on the highest combined score of application and short essay (50 points), and interview (50 points). The interviews will take place between March 11th and March 17th.

Q. What is the cost of the trip to Washington, D.C.?

A. **Nothing.** Absolutely nothing! Howard Electric will pay all of the expenses (\$2,850 value). The only cost to the student will be for incidentals such as extra souvenirs and personal items of interest.

Q. What will I see in Washington, D.C.?

A. Air Force Memorial, Arlington National Cemetery, FDR Memorial, Ford's Theatre, Iwo Jima Memorial, Jefferson Memorial, Korean War Veterans Memorial, Library of Congress, Lincoln Memorial, Mount Vernon, Potomac River Cruise, Smithsonian Museums, Supreme Court, The Pentagon, White House, U.S Capitol, Vietnam Veterans Memorial, Washington Monument, World War I and II Monuments and so much more!

Q. Who will the chaperones be?

A. Ten to twelve Cooperative employees and spouses from across the state are designated to chaperone.



2026 Youth Tour Application

Student's Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

E-mail: _____

Phone: (home) _____ (cell) _____

Parents or Guardian's Name: _____

Name of High School: _____ High School GPA: _____

High school teacher or counselor responsible for student sign-up: _____

High School activities:

Any public speaking experience:

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