

Dates to Remember

Contest Entry Deadline:
Friday, January 20, 2012 by 4:30 p.m.

Finalists Banquet:

Youth Leadership Conference in Baton Rouge:
March 28 through March 30, 2012

NRECA Youth Tour Conference:
June 15 through June 22, 2012



Three first place winners, one from each parish, will represent Pointe Coupee Electric at the **NRECA Youth Conference in Washington D.C.** Louisiana Generating (NRG) will also select three winners to take part in the tour. All six first place winners will be required to attend a **Youth Leadership Conference in Baton Rouge.** If you are unable to attend this conference, the winner must step down and the trip will be offered to the second place winner. A student must attend the Youth Leadership Conference in order to attend the Washington D.C. trip. Second place winners will be chosen as alternates and will attend in the event the first place winners are unable to attend.



Who Sponsors Washington Youth Tour?

The Youth Tour is sponsored by the National Rural Electric Cooperatives Association (NRECA), the Association of Louisiana Electric Cooperatives (ALEC), and their member distribution cooperatives: Beauregard Electric, Claiborne Electric, DEMCO, Jeff Davis Electric, Northeast Louisiana Power, Pointe Coupee Electric, South Louisiana Electric Co-op, and Washington-St. Tammany Electric.

What past participants are saying:

"The Youth Tour was a great learning experience, and the company was wonderful. I'll never forget all of the friendships I made. I have attended several conferences, conventions, etc., but nothing comes close to our nation's capital."

—Kristen Sanchez, Maurepas, LA

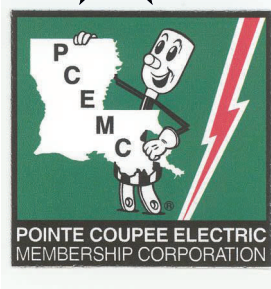
"The Washington, D.C., trip was an invaluable, wonderful and most memorable experience. I could never thank you enough for allowing me to be a part of it. I hope many more groups get to participate in this adventure."

—T.J. Phillips, Many, LA

"After I got home I realized that I had just been to MY nation's capital and there are people that only get to see the things I saw in history books and on CNN. It's like walking into history. My freedom means so much more to me now that I realize how much it cost. It is well worth the effort of writing a simple essay."

—Callie Mae Hockenjos, Arcadia, LA

Connecting People...Impacting Lives!



For More Information:
Contact Joanie Bishop at
(225) 638-3751 or 1-800-738-7232
www.pcemc.org

Mail Contest Entries to:
Member Services Department
Pointe Coupee Electric
P. O. Box 160
New Roads, LA 70760
Deliver Contest Entries to:
2506 False River Drive
New Roads, LA 70760

****ATTENTION****

**HIGH SCHOOL JUNIORS
WIN AN ALL EXPENSE PAID TRIP
TO WASHINGTON D.C.**



**ESSAY CONTEST
WHAT IS IMPORTANT TO YOU?
HOW DO YOU FEEL?
LET YOUR ELECTED OFFICIALS
KNOW!**



Contest Information

Pointe Coupee Electric Membership Corporation is sponsoring a contest to select students for an all-expense paid trip to Washington D.C. to attend the NRECA "Government in Action" Youth Conference. All High School Juniors (11th grade) who are members of Pointe Coupee Electric are eligible to enter! Also eligible to enter are high school juniors who attend the following schools: Iberville Parish—Plaquemine High and St. John High; Pointe Coupee Parish—Livonia High, Pointe Coupee Central, False River Academy, and Catholic High of P.C.; West Baton Rouge—Port Allen High

Contest Rules

Students must write a formal letter approximately 500 words to an elected official. Students, this is the perfect opportunity to voice your opinion to your elected officials on any issue, problem or success. In the letter, the topic of concern should be stated and thoroughly discussed. The letter should be addressed to the respective local, state or federal official in formal letter format. Obscene or offensive material will not be accepted and will automatically be disqualified. Remember to use facts to validate your opinion.

Contest Judging

Preliminary Selection

A judging committee will select the top three entries from each parish (Iberville, Pointe Coupee, and West Baton Rouge). The preliminary winners will advance to the final selection and will be notified by mail and telephone.

Final Selection

The final judging will be based on the written assignment (50%), personal interview (30%) and oral presentation of the letter (20%).

Guidelines and Information

1. Letter must have a coversheet including the following:
 - A. Full Name and Age of the Student
 - B. Parent's or Guardian's Name, Address and Telephone Number
 - C. Name and Address of the School
 - D. Sponsoring Teacher's Name
 - E. List of all school/community clubs and extracurricular activities.
2. Letter must be in the format of a formal letter, typed and double spaced.
3. Do not sign your letter. Simply sign or end your letter as follows: A Concerned Student, A Thankful Student, A Grateful Student, etc.
4. Contestant should keep a personal copy of the letter in case his/her letter is chosen as a finalist. *Letters become the property of Pointe Coupee Electric and may be published at the discretion of Pointe Coupee Electric.*

Pointe Coupee Electric does not mail Contest Entries to elected officials.

Additional Opportunities for Winners

Youth Leadership Council

Students may apply to be Louisiana's representative to the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association's (NRECA) Youth Leadership Council (YLC). The YLC is composed of one representative from each of the 44 states that participate in the Youth Tour. YLC members have the opportunity for additional free travel and leadership training.

NRECA Annual Meeting

(Held in Late Winter/Early Spring; Location to be announced).

All 44 YLC representatives will assist NRECA staff at the organization's annual meeting. YLC responsibilities at this six day meeting will include participating in the meeting's opening assembly, staffing information booths, learning about energy issues, and assisting with committee meetings. Group recreational activities will also be provided.

NRECA Youth Leadership Conference

(Held each summer; Location: Washington D.C.).

At this workshop, all 44 YLC representatives will have the opportunity to hone their public speaking skills, develop their leadership skills, and enhance their understanding of politics. Group recreational activities will also be provided.

ALEC Annual Meeting

(Held in July; Location Baton Rouge).

Louisiana's YLC representative will deliver a brief 5-7 minute speech about his/her experiences in Washington D.C. at this meeting of electric cooperative leaders from across Louisiana.



What is the Washington D.C. Youth Tour?

The Association of Louisiana Electric Cooperatives Washington D.C. Youth Tour is an annual, weeklong, all expense paid trip to Washington D.C. that is open to high school juniors (11th grade) across Louisiana.

Nine of Louisiana's electric cooperatives participate in the Washington Youth Tour. Each electric cooperative has a unique method of selecting the student or students they will sponsor on the trip.

Nationwide, electric cooperatives from 44 states participate in this event. In all, more than 1,400 young people from across the nation gather in Washington, D.C. each year for this event.

Louisiana's electric cooperatives send students to Washington, D.C., for a number of reasons including:

1. Rewarding students for academic achievement through a writing contest. (Keep in mind it is not always the 4.0 grade point average students that win.)
2. Educating students about the role of electric co-ops in the national economy.
3. Fostering students' appreciation for the democratic form of government.
4. Exposing students to the sights and sounds of our nation's heritage.



For more information about the Youth Tour,
check out the following web sites:

<http://youthtour.coop>

www.alec.coop

www.pcemc.org

