

2026 National Rural Electric Cooperative



Youth Tour



What is the Rural Electric Youth Tour?

Every June as many as 1,800 high school students from across the country spend a week in the nation's capital as part of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Youth Tour. The students are sponsored by electric cooperatives, like Pella Cooperative Electric, making it an all-expense-paid trip to Washington, D.C.

Who can apply?

Pella Cooperative Electric will be sponsoring one sophomore or junior student who resides within the Pella Cooperative Electric service territory and is a cooperative member. This includes part of Jasper, Mahaska, Marion, Poweshiek, and Warren counties in Central Iowa.

When does it happen?

The 2026 Youth Tour is scheduled for the week of June 14-20!

What will you do?

Students will have a chance to learn more about electric cooperatives and American history and will come home with a great understanding of their role as an American citizen. They will also learn about the U.S. government and meet with their members of Congress. On the trip, students will also take in the sights of D.C. as they visit monuments, museums, and historical landmarks. Participating in Youth Tour is an awesome way to learn about this great nation, develop leadership skills, and make friendships that will last beyond the week. Students who go on Youth Tour call it a trip of a lifetime!

Why do we sponsor students?

Giving back to our communities and investing in the next generation of leaders is part of every electric cooperative's mission.

How do we apply?

Mail or email your completed application materials by **March 20, 2026**, to:

Pella Cooperative Electric
c/o Emma Henning
PO Box 106
Pella, Iowa 50219
ehenning@pella-cea.org



2026 National Rural Electric Cooperative Youth Tour Application



Student Information

Student Name: _____

Home Address: _____

City: _____ Zip Code: _____

Phone Number: _____

Email Address: _____

Pella Cooperative Electric Account Number: _____

Parents/Guardians: _____

High School: _____

Verify you are a high school sophomore/junior for the 2025-2026 school year:

Yes: _____ No: _____

If chosen, will you be able to participate in the Washington, D.C. Youth Tour?

Yes: _____ No: _____

Signature: _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____

Requirements:

1. Student must be enrolled as a sophomore or junior in high school or currently hold the status equivalent to a sophomore or junior in an accredited home-based school.
2. Applicant's parents or legal guardians must reside in the Pella Cooperative Electric's service territory. Member's account number must be in the parent or legal guardian's name.
3. **Applicant must submit an essay with a minimum of 250 words** on the topic "*Why Cooperatives are important and how the Cooperative business model differs from other electric companies.*" Applicant must submit attached and completed questionnaire. Feel free to create your own page if there is not enough room on the questionnaire.
4. Finalists may be asked to be interviewed to determine a winner. The winner will be asked to share their experiences during the Pella Cooperative Annual Meeting and at a regular monthly Board meeting. **Applicants are judged anonymously.**



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Student Involvement

Extracurricular Activities/Clubs/Organizations:

Leadership Experience:

Volunteer Work:

Hobbies and Special Interests:

Why should you be selected to represent Pella Cooperative Electric on the 2024 Youth Tour?

