



2023 YOUTH TOUR

ESSAY PACKET INFORMATION

A LIFE CHANGING EXPERIENCE



Students,

Thank you so much for your interest in the 2023 Youth Tour Competition and trip to Washington, D.C. This packet contains a series of information and essential details to help you write a winning essay. The essay topic is listed on the Contest Details sheet. Please read the instructions carefully. The top six students will be chosen for the oral competition, where a panel of judges will interview them at our office in Maryville, Missouri.

Following the oral competition, we will name the top two winners who will receive an expense-paid trip to the Rural Electric Youth Tour in Washington, D.C. This year's Youth Tour trip is June 12-18, 2023. The third and fourth place winners will receive an expense-paid trip to the Cooperative Youth Conference and Leadership Experience (CYCLE) in Jefferson City on July 19-21, 2023. Again, thank you for your interest in the Rural Electric Youth Tour. Essays are accepted from October 1st to November 14th. Good luck writing your essay, and we hope to see you in Maryville for the oral competition and reception on December 8th, 2022.

YOUTH TOUR APPLICATION

Full name: _____

Street Address: _____

City: _____ **State:** _____ **Zip Code:** _____

Phone Number: _____

Email: _____

Parents/Guardians Names: _____

Parents' Phone Number: _____

Parents' Email: _____

Name of School: _____

Teacher: _____

2023 Youth Tour Contest Information

1. Entries may be submitted by high school juniors in United Electric Cooperative's service territory.
2. Entries must include a completed application and a minimum essay of 600 words on the topic:
Tell us about yourself and what you are passionate about in life.
3. Entries must be typed using 12 Arial or Times New Roman font. Double-spaced on one side of each page.
4. Entries must be received by November 11, 2022.

You may deliver to the United Electric office in Maryville or Savannah or mail to:

Pat Walter

United Electric Cooperative

PO Box 757

Maryville MO 64468

5. The top six final written scores will comprise the list of finalists. Each finalist will then be invited to be interviewed before a panel of three judges on December 8, 2022 at United Electric's office in Maryville.

JUDGING

Written Presentation

Knowledge of Subject (30 points)

- *Demonstrates a basic understanding of the topic*

Originality (30 points)

- *Essay shows thought beyond the topic and information provided*

Content (20 points)

- *Essay clearly elaborates on the topic chosen with facts to backup the writers opinion.*

Composition (10 points)

- *Essay is composed of good transitions with an organized format.*

Grammar, Spelling, and Neatness (10 points)

- *Words, sentences, and paragraphs are grammatically correct, spelled correctly, and essay is typed without messy corrections.*

Oral Presentation

Speaking Ability (40 points)

- *The student speaks clearly, makes eye contact, and has expression, and speaks rather than recites.*

Originality (40 points)

- *Practice will help you keep your composure and self-assurance. Be yourself- your best self. Let your enthusiasm for your excellent composition show through.*

Presentation of Self (20 points)

- *Neat appearance demonstrates a positive attitude and poise, seems excited to be a part of the contest, and exhibits a strong desire to be chosen as a delegate for the Rural Electric Youth Tour.*

AWARDS

First and Second Place:

Receive the opportunity to go on an all-expense paid trip to Washington, D.C. on June 12-18, 2023. These students will represent United Electric Cooperative and the State of Missouri at the Youth Tour Conference in Washington D.C.

Third and Fourth Place:

Receive a all expense paid trip to Jefferson City, Missouri to the "Cooperative Youth Conference and Leadership Experience" (C.Y.C.L.E) which is a three-day leadership conference scheduled for July 19-21, 2023.



YOUTH LEADERSHIP COUNCIL

If selected for the Youth Tour, there will be an additional opportunity to partake in the Youth Leadership Council Program through the **NRECA, National Rural Electric Cooperative Association**. One student from Missouri will be given the title of **Missouri Student Representative** during Youth Tour. In addition, to be honored at Youth Tour, the selected candidate will be given the opportunity to travel again to Washington, D.C., along with over 40 students from additional states, to be trained in cooperative information in preparation for the **2024 NRECA Annual Meeting**.

For more information on the YLC Program, please contact Youth Tour Director of Missouri, **Chris Massman** at cmassman@amec.org, or Youth Leadership Director **Beth Knudson** at beth.knudson@nreca.coop.

