

Youth Tour Provides Road to Self-Discovery



MESSAGE FROM CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER ROBERT A. LOTH III

FOR MANY TEENS, THE GOVERNMENT-IN- Action Youth Tour is full of firsts. It may be the first time they leave the state, fly on a plane, visit the nation's capital or travel away from their families for an extended period of time. They will see and experience the larger world through their own eyes, rather than through their parents' perspectives—that's the most important first,

world by visiting museums, monuments, memorials and more.

The program has grown exponentially since its inception; last year's tour saw more than 1,800 high school students participate from co-ops in 46 states. Texas sent a delegation of 147 students.

Youth Tour is one of the most important programs that Central Texas Electric Cooperative undertakes. I am consistently impressed by the caliber of students that our co-op sponsors.

The week is interspersed with visits to important D.C. sites, including Capitol Hill. Activities with Youth Tour delegations from across the country enable teens to meet a broad spectrum of co-op kids. The program creates a safe space for teens to discover the adults they are striving to be. Teens leave behind their hometown identities and venture forward with a fresh slate. Students are encouraged to stretch themselves by talking to people they ordinarily wouldn't.

A highlight of Youth Tour is a meeting with congressional delegates. Teens learn firsthand that their elected officials work for their hometown communities. Students often have the opportunity to discuss issues with legislators, and our chaperones always are impressed with the interactions and questions asked by our students.

Youth Tour culminates in a farewell evening that centers on challenging and inspiring teens to go forward from the tour and make an impact in their communities. As conversations evolve, so do the teens' worldviews. Their definition of "community" often changes from their hometown to a broader meaning.

I can say that nearly all teens who have participated in our Youth Tour program look back with fond memories of an educational, interesting and eventful week. Many make lifelong friends. For a few, Youth Tour is a transformational experience. Parents often remark how their children return noticeably different—more mature, more confident, with bigger goals and aspirations; they have a sense of purpose.

Our teens are our future, and it's looking brighter every day. I hope you will consider urging your teen to "take the leap" by joining our next Youth Tour delegation.

For more information about Youth Tour, contact Patricia Stehling at 1-800-900-2832 or patricia.stehling@ctec.coop, or visit ctec.coop.



ANNIE REGINNIS | TEC

as it's truly a leap to their next phase, where their journey to adulthood begins.

In preparation for Youth Tour, teens learn about cooperatives, our history and grassroots advocacy. Youth Tour sprang from a suggestion of then-Sen. Lyndon B. Johnson to a national gathering of co-ops. Johnson believed youths from rural areas would benefit from visiting Washington, D.C., to see firsthand how government works and gain a wider perspective through the experience.

From this idea, Youth Tour formed. Every year, high school students from around the country are selected by their respective electric co-ops to participate in a weeklong trip to the nation's capital, where they learn about the country and the



Central Texas Electric Cooperative

Fredericksburg (headquarters)

386 Friendship Lane
Fredericksburg, TX 78624

Llano

1410 E. St. Hwy. 29, Llano

Kingsland

Nob Hill Subdivision
706 Cottonwood St., Kingsland

Mason

1881 E. State Highway 29, Mason

Office Hours

8 a.m.–5 p.m., Monday–Friday

Website

ctec.coop

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Robert A. Loth III

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

W.C. “Dub” Stewart, President, *Llano County*
Allen Goodwin, Vice President, *Kendall County*
Doylene Bode, Secretary, *Gillespie County*
Tim Lehmborg, Treasurer, *Gillespie County*
Jack Asbill, *Mason County*
Rex Brand, *Kerr County*
Tommy Duncan, *Llano County*
Mark Hahn, *Mason County*
Stanley Keese, *Llano County*
James Low, *San Saba County*
Charles E. Pearson, *Gillespie County*

Celebrate, Cook and Save

DID YOU KNOW JANUARY IS NATIONAL SLOW COOKING MONTH? YOU CAN CELEBRATE by preparing a heart-healthy meal in a slow cooker and save money in the process.

Ever since slow cookers were introduced in 1971 under the “Crock-Pot” brand name, they have been celebrated as savers of time and electricity. Plus, slow-cooker meals are nutritious because they are cooked at low temperatures for long periods, allowing fresh meats and vegetables to retain their natural juices.

Here are five reasons to dust off your slow cooker this month and use it to make soups, stews and entrées.

1. Although it takes all day for a slow cooker to cook a meal, you don’t have to do anything except toss in the ingredients and turn it on at the appropriate level of heat. Once you prep the pot, you can walk away until the food is done.

2. An electric slow cooker uses less energy than a conventional oven. Use one in the winter to create hot, hearty meals. Later in the year, when it’s warm outside, use it instead of the stove or oven, and keep your kitchen cooler while you cook.

3. A slow-cooker meal requires little cleanup. Aside from a cutting board and a knife, all you’ll need to wash is the pot itself.

4. When you’re invited to a potluck supper, prepare your contribution in the slow cooker. Once the food is ready, leave it in the pot, let the outside cool enough to handle, and bring the whole thing to the party.

5. You’ll eat fewer processed foods if you get used to cooking with a slow cooker. That means you’ll eat less salt, fat and calories.

Look for slow-cooker recipes for everything from casseroles to desserts, and remember that you’re saving energy and money with every use.

Emergency Contact

To report electric service interruptions, please call the Central Texas Electric Cooperative office in your area at the numbers listed below:

FREDERICKSBURG AREA

(830) 997-2126

1-800-900-CTEC (2832)

including Gillespie, Kendall, Kerr, Blanco, Real and Kimble counties

LLANO AND SAN SABA AREAS

(325) 247-4191

THE LAKES AREA

(325) 388-4542

8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

(325) 247-4191

after business hours

MASON AREA

(325) 347-6314

including McCulloch, Menard and Kimble counties



BYNCE | ISTOCK.COM

CTEC To Award 25 College Scholarships

TWENTY-FIVE \$1,000 COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIPS FOR YOUTHS IN THE CENTRAL TEXAS Electric Cooperative service area will be awarded in 2018, bringing the combined amount awarded to area students over the program's 20-year history to \$559,000!

"This is a great opportunity for the co-op to continue doing something to help our membership at really no cost," says CEO Robert A. Loth III. "Using the state's escheated money also assures that at least some of that money comes back into the area and is used for the benefit of our members."

HB 3203, passed in September 1997, allows nonprofit electric cooperatives to put unclaimed capital credit funds—previously collected by the Texas comptroller's office for the state's general fund—to use for student scholarships.

Guidelines for 2018 Program

A scholarship selection committee, appointed by the Board of Directors of Central Texas Electric Cooperative, will choose candidates and alternates for the 25 scholarships to be awarded. Scholarships will be awarded based upon the applicant's eligibility and will be granted to students who attend a recognized Texas institution of higher education. Recipients must carry a minimum of 12 hours or be considered by the registrar to be a full-time student. All scholarships will be mailed directly to the financial aid office of the selected school for the fall 2018 semester.

Eligibility

CTEC will accept and consider scholarship applications from all active members and their immediate families (not just high school students) whose primary residence is served by CTEC. Applicants must be of good character as evidenced by at least two letters of recommendation from teachers, principals, counselors, etc. from the school they currently attend. For applicants returning to school after an extended absence, recommendation letters will be accepted from previous employers, supervisors, ministers, etc. Applicants must demonstrate a coherent degree plan and willingness to pursue a course of higher learning.

How To Apply

For high school seniors, CTEC mails applications and guidelines in early January to many area schools where CTEC has meters. For members already out of high school, applications are available at all CTEC offices and can be downloaded from the co-op's website at ctec.coop. Questions can be directed to **Patricia Stehling in Fredericksburg at 1-800-900-CTEC (2832) or (830) 997-2126, or by email at patricia.stehling@ctec.coop**. Successful applicants will be announced in late April.

Deadline

Completed applications must be in the Fredericksburg CTEC office by **5 p.m., Friday, February 23**.

IMPORTANT MEMBER REMINDER!

Board of Directors Selection Process

MEMBERS INTERESTED IN RUNNING FOR a seat on the co-op's board of directors in 2018 should pay special attention to a March deadline. Article III of the CTEC bylaws details the director selection process and implements several deadlines.

Note the first upcoming deadline: Any person seeking nomination at a district meeting must submit an application and petition signed by at least 10 members in his or her district by March 15. You can obtain an application by contacting the CTEC headquarters office at P.O. Box 553, Fredericksburg, TX 78624, or by calling 1-800-900-CTEC (2832) or (830) 997-2126. Copies of the CTEC bylaws are available at the CTEC offices in Fredericksburg, Kingsland, Llano and Mason.

You also can find the bylaws online at ctec.coop under My Co-op.



AVDEEV007 | ISTOCK.COM

Happy New Year!

from Central Texas EC

Our offices will be closed Monday, January 1, to allow employees to ring in the new year with their families.



CTEC Gives High School Students the Chance To Visit Washington, DC

THREE HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS FROM THE CENTRAL TEXAS

Electric Co-op service area will be selected to participate in the 54th annual Government-in-Action Youth Tour on June 6–15. Through this trip, students gain a personal understanding of American history as well as their role as a U.S. citizen.

In 1957, senator and future president Lyndon B. Johnson inspired the Youth Tour when he addressed the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association’s annual meeting in Chicago. “If one thing comes out of this meeting,” he said, “it will be sending youngsters to the national capital where they can actually see what the flag stands for and represents.”

Eligible high school students can submit an essay for a chance to win a spot on this trip of a lifetime. The deadline for essays to be submitted is January 26. Participation is open to high school students who have completed their sophomore year by May 2018.

Youth Tour is a fun-filled trip to the U.S. capital with about 150 students and chaperones provided by sponsoring cooperatives from across Texas. The fun starts in Austin, where participants will visit the Governor’s Mansion, the Capitol and the Bob Bullock Texas State History Museum before departing for Washington, D.C. Some of the stops in the U.S. capital include

the National Cathedral, Pentagon City mall, Arlington National Cemetery and the wreath-laying ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, a performance at the Kennedy Center, Mount Vernon, Union Station, Potomac River boat cruise and dance, Smithsonian museums, the FDR Memorial, Jefferson Memorial, Capitol Hill, Supreme Court, Library of Congress, Sunset Parade at the Marine Corps War Memorial, White House grounds and much more!

All expenses for the three winners on the tour (except personal items such as souvenirs, etc.) are paid by the co-op; CTEC provides transportation to Austin.



Contest Rules

Essays of 500 words or fewer must be submitted to the CTEC headquarters office in Fredericksburg by 5 p.m., Friday, January 26. This year’s essay must answer the question: “What does smart grid technology mean for the future of electricity?” Winning essays are selected by independent judges and will be evaluated on originality, knowledge of topic, composition, neatness and grammar. Two alternates also will be named and would attend in the event that a winner is unable to participate.

Additional details, information and entry forms are available from your local high school or online at ctec.coop.