



Sierra Electric Cooperative, Inc.

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

2026 Youth Tour Application

Date: _____

Name of Applicant: _____

Applicant Date of Birth: _____ Grade School Level: ☐ Junior ☐ Senior

Resides at (physical address): _____

Mailing Address: _____
(P.O. Box, Street or Route, City, Zip)

Home Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____

What school do you attend? _____

Name of Parent/Guardian(s): _____

Sierra Electric Member Number: _____
(If you do not know the member number, please have your parent contact us to obtain it.)

Answer the two essay questions below. Prepare essay questions with your answers on separate sheet(s) of paper and attach to this application.

1. Unlike investor-owned utilities, an electric cooperative is operated by and for the people of the community. Its goal is to provide reliable power, not make a profit. How do you envision the future for electric cooperatives in America?
2. Why should you be chosen as Sierra Electric's delegate to the 2026 Youth Tour in Washington, D.C. and what would you expect to gain from the experience?

Your Sierra Electric Member Number, **NOT** your name, should be written on your essay. If more than two qualifying applications are received, the essays are judged by Sierra Electric's Board of Trustees and to keep the contest un-biased, no name shall appear on the essays.

(See reverse side for additional contest information and requirements)

Washington D.C. Youth Tour Information & Requirements

2026 Tour

June 15-20, 2026

Sierra Electric Cooperative is sponsoring an all-expense paid trip for two students to Washington, D.C. as part of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association's Government-in-Action Youth Tour. The winners of this essay contest will win an all-expense paid trip to Washington, D.C., June 15-20, 2026.

The Youth Tour has three main objectives:

- To educate youth on all aspects of rural electrification, to promote a better understanding of the value of rural electric cooperatives.
- To provide an opportunity for youth to visit monuments, government buildings and cooperative related organizations to become familiar with the historical and political environment of their nation's capital.
- To provide an opportunity for young adults to meet elected officials to better understand how their federal government works.

Contest Rules:

- Applicant must be age 16 - 19
- Applicant must be a dependent of an active Sierra Electric Cooperative member and/or reside in a home served by Sierra Electric Cooperative
- Applicant is required to complete the SEC Youth Tour application and prepare essay responses to the two questions located on the application.

Resource materials that may be helpful to contestants are available at the Sierra Electric Cooperative office or at their school's guidance office. The applicant's essay responses will be judged on the students' knowledge of the subject, originality, composition, neatness and grammar.

Deadline for submitting completed applications is Monday, January 12, 2026, at 5 p.m.

Submit completed applications:

In Person:

Sierra Electric Cooperative, Inc.
610 Hwy 195
Elephant Butte, NM 87935

Mail (please allow time for postal delivery):

Sierra Electric Cooperative, Inc.
P.O. Box 290
Elephant Butte, NM 87935