

Verdigris Valley Electric Cooperative's **Youth Tour Program** (for 11<sup>th</sup> graders) offers you an opportunity to make new friends and lots of memories, along with learning about electricity and electric cooperatives. We'd love your participation!!

**What are we talking about?** YOUTH TOUR ESSAY CONTEST is for high school Juniors/11<sup>th</sup> graders only.

**What is YOUTH TOUR?** It's an all-expense paid, week long, fun & action-packed trip to Washington D.C. in the month of June for 11<sup>th</sup> Graders. While on the trip, you'll be able to build leadership skills, learn more about US Government and our nation's heritage. It's a once in a lifetime experience that you don't want to miss out on!

**Requirements for this contest:**

- 1.) You must currently be classified as a high school **Junior** (11<sup>th</sup> grader) at time of essay contest and attend a high school in Verdigris Valley Electric Cooperative's service territory. It's not necessary that the student's parents be members of VVEC.
- 2.) Essay needs to be type-written, double-spaced, and needs to be between 600 and 800 words, in length.
- 3.) You can use information from our website or any source you choose. You're not required to cite your sources. Be original and be factual.
- 4.) DO NOT put your name on the essay; instead, include a cover sheet with your name and school.
- 5.) Complete and submit the Youth Tour entry form/application along with your essay.
- 6.) Deadline to submit essay and Youth Tour application/entry form is **Friday, February 25, 2022, no later than 4 p.m.**
- 7.) Essay Topic is: **"In your words, explain how Electric Cooperatives originated and how we benefit from them in our communities"**.
- 8.) Essay can be submitted by hand delivery to VVEC headquarters in Collinsville, by email or US Postal Mail. (Important! If mailing, use PO BOX, not physical address)
- 9.) Be prepared to commit to attending an all-expense paid trip if you are selected as a trip finalist on the dates of JUNE 17-23, 2022. \*Covid-19/Safety Protocols may be required\*

We will select and send two (2) students as the top finalists, to Washington D.C. based on the two highest scoring essays. There will also be two (2) runners-up who will win a \$1000.00 and a \$750.00 college scholarship.

**ESSAY DEADLINE - 4 p.m. Friday, February 25, 2022.**

Best of Luck!!

For more information contact:

Misti Frazier or Regina Morris

Youth Programs Coordinators

Verdigris Valley Electric Cooperative

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