

Youth Leadership Award

One student is selected each year to represent Mississippi on the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) Youth Leadership Council. The selection is made at the Youth Leadership Workshop through a comprehensive process that includes personal interviews.

At the 2018 Youth Leadership Workshop, Wallace Bass was selected by judges to represent Mississippi on NRECA's National Youth Leadership Council. Later, he attended NRECA's Youth Leadership Conference and spoke at the Electric Cooperatives of Mississippi statewide annual meeting in Biloxi. He will also attend the NRECA annual meeting, which will be held Mar. 9-13, 2019, in Orlando, Fla. Wallace, a senior at Leake County High School, was sponsored by Central Electric Power Association, based in Carthage.



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The student chosen will serve a one-year term and participate in the 2019 annual meeting of the Electric Cooperatives of Mississippi, to be held Sept. 10, in Biloxi, and the annual meeting of NRECA, to be held Feb. 29-Mar. 4, 2020, in New Orleans, La. This distinguished honor provides many other opportunities. Some past winners have served as summer staff mem-

bers for Mississippi congressmen; others have worked for NRECA in Washington as a part-time summer employee. The student chosen will also receive a \$1,000 cash scholarship. There will also be two additional \$500 cash scholarships awarded in this contest. This honor is well worth the effort to participate.

Cost

Students' expenses are funded entirely by Singing River Electric. There are no hidden costs; Singing River Electric pays for all travel, lodging, meals, educational materials and admission fees. Our support of the program demonstrates a commitment to our young members and a desire to provide an effective, high-quality leadership program to help prepare them for life's challenges.

How to Get Involved

Program details, selection criteria and applications are given to the junior class guidance counselor at each school serving Singing River Electric's service territory. If you want to apply for the youth leadership program or have questions, please see your guidance counselor.



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"The Youth Tour has inspired me to get involved more in my community. Seeing officials from my state working in D.C., inspired me to think outside of my comfort zone - with a sense of - if he can do it, I can do it."

- Eli Ramirez, Pascagoula



ELECTRIC COOPERATIVES OF MISSISSIPPI

Youth Leadership PROGRAM



The 2018 participants with Rep. Gregg Harper.



- Youth Leadership Workshop
- Washington, D.C., Youth Tour



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

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"A new experience can bring a new change, and a new change can bring a new opportunity. I thank this tour for the opportunities it has given me. Seeing this historic place has opened my mind and showed me I can be and do anything."

- Zikeya Byrd, State Line

SEE PHOTOS

FROM THE 2018 TOUR AT www.ecm.coop



Singing River Electric Cooperative, in an effort to better acquaint the future leaders of our communities with the cooperative philosophy, participates with other electric cooperatives in Mississippi in an annual Youth Leadership Program designed for high school juniors.

Program Goals

Now in its 33rd year, the Electric Cooperatives of Mississippi Youth Leadership Program is an enjoyable educational experience that makes a lasting impact on participants.

The program seeks to:

- help students develop the confidence and ability to become better leaders in their schools and communities;
- stimulate their interest in governmental affairs and encourage their participation in the democratic process;
- inform them about their electric cooperative, the cooperative form of business and the distribution of electricity;
- foster interaction among students from communities throughout Mississippi and the nation.

"This program is truly life-changing. This week I was able to be a part of our great nation's history. I will cherish these memories, and the friendships I gained, forever."

– Cari Sims, Vanclave



High school juniors selected to participate in the program attend the three-day Youth Leadership Workshop in Jackson. The workshop focuses on developing the leadership skills of students who have demonstrated a desire to be a leader among their peers. Participants possess talents that make them natural leaders; our program enhances these talents and

helps students develop advanced skills to prepare for leadership roles.

Students are selected for participation through various forms of intense competition conducted by their local electric cooperative. More than 1,000 young people were involved in the 2017-2018 program selection process.

Youth Leadership Workshop

Students will attend the Youth Leadership Workshop in Jackson, Feb. 27-Mar. 1, 2019, where they will study the finer aspects of leadership, watch state government in action and hear presentations from government leaders, business leaders and electric cooperative professionals.

Educational workshop sessions provide information about the electric utility



Students work together to solve problems during a team-building exercise at the 2018 Youth Leadership Workshop.

industry and the electric cooperative network that serves more than 1.8 million Mississippians.

The workshop also features a breakfast with students' respective state senator and representative, a visit to the Capitol and a Leadership Luncheon.

At the 2018 workshop, students heard presentations from Gov. Phil Bryant and Lt. Gov. Tate Reeves, as well as motivational speakers, and discussed issues in a mock town hall meeting. By participating in a fun team-building exercise conducted by a team of professional instructors, students gained unique insight into the value of working with others to achieve common goals.



"Fun Time" at the workshop includes an ice cream social and photobooth time.

2019 Washington, D.C., Youth Tour

Each year Mississippi's student delegation joins more than 1,800 high school juniors from 42 states across the nation at the Youth Tour in Washington, D.C., where they learn about cooperatives and rural electrification from a national perspective.



Sightseeing in Washington, D.C., included a stop at the White House for these 2018 Youth Tour participants.

During the week-long trip, students visit significant monuments and memorials, the White House, the Smithsonian Institution and much more. They meet Mississippi's two senators and their respective representative at the U.S. Capitol. Students also tour the Newseum to learn about their First Amendment rights and witness the changing of the guard at Arlington National

Cemetery's Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. The busy schedule also includes time for shopping and relaxation. An evening highlight is the sunset parade at the Marine Corps War Memorial and a dinner/dance, enjoyed with students from other states.

The Youth Tour is a wonderful sightseeing experience that also offers an opportunity for making new friends. Students meet others their age from across the country, often forming friendships that last long after the tour is over.



"This has been the experience of a lifetime and a true blessing. I have probably the best friends I'll ever have."

– Michah Pickering, Beaumont

Mississippi's 2019 Youth Tour student delegation will depart from airports in Memphis, Jackson and Gulfport on Saturday, June 15, 2019, and return on Friday, June 21, 2019.