

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.

The student chosen will serve a one-year term and participate in additional activities: a week-long conference in Washington, D.C., following the 2022 Youth Tour; the 2022 annual meeting of the Electric Cooperatives of Mississippi, in Biloxi; and the annual meeting of NRECA, to be held in Nashville, Tenn. in 2023. (Dates to be determined.)

This distinguished honor provides many other opportunities. Some past winners have served as summer staff members for Mississippi congressmen; others have worked for NRECA in Washington, D.C. as a part-time summer employee. The student chosen will also receive a \$1,000 scholarship. There will also be two additional \$500 scholarships awarded in this contest. This honor is well worth the effort to participate.

For more information contact Elissa Fulton, ECM Youth Program Director at youth@ecm.coop.



Byron Swetman is presented an award from ECM VP of Communications Ron Stewart.

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

A representative of Singing River Electric will contact an official of each school located in its service area and provide program details. If desired, a detailed presentation can be presented to members of the junior class. If you have questions, contact your high school guidance or career center counselor.

The Electric Cooperatives of Mississippi will require all participants to provide proof of a negative COVID-19 test prior to attending both the Youth Leadership Workshop and Youth Tour. Safety requirements are subject to change.

Please be advised that we will follow local, state, and national COVID-19 guidelines, and this could result in a postponement or cancellation of the program: Cooperative University, Youth Leadership Workshop and/or Youth Tour. Your safety, and the safety of our employees, are of the utmost importance to us.

ELECTRIC COOPERATIVES OF MISSISSIPPI

YOUTH LEADERSHIP

PROGRAM 2022



**YOUTH LEADERSHIP WORKSHOP
YOUTH TOUR IN WASHINGTON, D.C.**

11187 Old 63 South, Lucedale, MS 39452
601-947-4211

DEADLINE TO APPLY IS NOVEMBER 12

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 34th 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.

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 students were involved in the 2019-2020 program selection process.

YOUTH LEADERSHIP WORKSHOP

Students will attend the **Youth Leadership Workshop in Jackson, March 2-4, 2022**, 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 industry and the electric cooperative network that serves more than 1.8 million Mississippians.



2020 representatives Bethany Toche, Byron Swetman, Avarie Wells, and Laney Kate Hulbert visited the Mississippi State Capitol Building in Jackson.

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

At the 2020 workshop, students heard presentations from Gov. Tate Reeves, Lt. Gov. Delbert Hosemann and Sec. Michael Watson, 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.



2020 representatives: Laney Kate Hulbert, Byron Swetman, Bethany Toche, and Avarie Wells

WASHINGTON, D.C. YOUTH TOUR

Each year Mississippi's student delegation joins more than 1,800 high school juniors from 47 states across the nation at the Youth Tour in Washington, D.C., where they learn about cooperatives and rural electrification from a national perspective.

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 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.

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.

Mississippi's 2021-2022 **Youth Tour student delegation will depart from airports in Memphis, Jackson and Gulfport on Saturday, June 18, 2022, and return on Friday, June 24, 2022.**



The 2019 delegation pictured at the Albert Einstein Memorial at the National Academy of Sciences in Washington, D.C.

* Please note that the usual agenda is subject to change due to Washington, D.C. COVID-19 restrictions.



See photos from the 2019 tour at www.ecm.coop and on [Facebook.com/2019ylp](https://www.facebook.com/2019ylp) or [#msyouthleaders19](https://www.facebook.com/2019ylp)