



ELECTRIC COOPERATIVES OF MISSISSIPPI

2026 COOPERATIVE *Youth Leaders*

Singing River Electric Power Association wants to help develop the future leaders of our communities and state. That's why we sponsor three area students in this exciting program designed for high school juniors.

**CHECK IT OUT AND SEE
WHAT IT TAKES TO APPLY.**

COOPERATIVE UNIVERSITY • COOPERATIVE LEADERS WORKSHOP • YOUTH TOUR IN WASHINGTON, D.C.



PROGRAM GOALS

Goal: The Cooperative Youth Leaders program provides an opportunity for students across Mississippi to learn, grow, and experience.

- Students **LEARN** the value of the cooperative business model, specifically the impact that electric cooperatives have on their lives and communities.
- **GROW** in their leadership qualities through team-building exercises as well as expanding their communication skills, confidence, and courage in decision making.
- **EXPERIENCE** the democratic process at state and federal levels by visiting the Mississippi and U.S. capital cities.

Singing River Electric has joined with other electric cooperatives in participating in the statewide Cooperative Youth Leaders Program for **high school juniors**.

THREE-PART PROGRAM

The Cooperative Leadership Program has three parts:

- **LEARN** at Cooperative University on Tuesday, October 14, at SRE's Lucedale office.
- **GROW** at the Cooperative Leaders Workshop held at the Westin Hotel in Jackson **February 25-27, 2026**.
- **EXPERIENCE** the all-expense-paid Youth Tour of Washington, D.C. The Washington, D.C. Youth Tour is tentatively scheduled for **June 13-19, 2026**.

Your guidance or career center counselor will select your school's nominee to attend Cooperative University. School nominees **must be able to attend all three events before applying**. All expenses are covered by Singing River Electric.

SRE COOPERATIVE UNIVERSITY

Singing River Electric's Cooperative University is a one-day event where each school will be represented by one student. Each student is expected to attend the all-day event in its entirety. The day will consist of speakers, games, lunch, and various demonstrations. This year's Cooperative University will be held on **October 14, 2025**.

This fun-filled day includes the following presentations and activities:

- Students will learn about Singing River Electric and what it means to be a cooperative and why membership matters.
- An overview of the Cooperative Youth Leaders program will allow students to see what they will experience if they're selected to attend the Cooperative Leaders Workshop held in Jackson and the Youth Tour of Washington, D.C.
- Speakers from Cooperative Energy will explain how electricity is generated, types of fuels used to produce electricity, and how it is delivered to your home.
- Mississippi legislators will participate in a panel discussion, explaining how government works, their role in it, and their personal and political career backgrounds.

INTERVIEWS | During the day, students will be asked to step away from Cooperative University to be interviewed by a panel of out-of-town judges. **Only three students will be selected** for the Cooperative Youth Leaders Program. Students will receive an email informing them of the results.

COOPERATIVE LEADERS WORKSHOP YOUTH TOUR OF WASHINGTON, D.C.

Students will attend the Cooperative Leaders Workshop in Jackson, February 25-27, 2025. At the Workshop, students will:

- Enhance their leadership skills.
- Enjoy breakfast where students can meet and talk with their state senators or representatives.
- Visit the state Capitol and watch state government in action.
- Hear presentations from governmental leaders, motivational speakers, and electric cooperative professionals.

Mississippi's student delegation joins high school juniors from across the nation at the Youth Tour of Washington, D.C.

During the week-long trip, students:

- Visit numerous monuments and memorials.
- Tour the Smithsonian Museums.
- Witness the changing of the guard at Arlington National Cemetery's Tomb of the Unknowns.
- Meet Mississippi's two senators and their respective representative at the U.S. Capitol.
- Attend an inspirational youth rally.
- Participating in other exciting activities and events.

Singing River Electric's 2025-2026 Youth Tour students will fly to Washington, D.C., from Jackson, Gulfport, or New Orleans on **Saturday, June 13**, and return on **Friday, June 19, 2026**.

HOW TO APPLY

The leadership program is open to high school juniors located within Singing River Electric's service area. Each high school will select one student to participate in Singing River Electric's Cooperative University.

Please check with your guidance counselor or career center counselor about how to apply for this program.

- Parents or legal guardians with whom participants reside **must be a Singing River Electric member**.
- Students must have a grade point average of a B or higher in general subjects of study or advanced studies
- It is beneficial for the students to be engaged in church or community service activities.
- The student must possess the following characteristics:
 - Outstanding citizenship at school and in the community
 - Solid school attendance record
 - Outgoing personality

Finally, the students representing Singing River Electric will be involved in a statewide selection process in which one student will be selected to represent Mississippi on the National Youth Leadership Council. The chosen student will be required to represent Mississippi at various meetings. More information to follow for the selected student.

APPLICATION DEADLINE

See your guidance or career center counselor for an application and return it as soon as possible. **Schools must submit their nominees by September 26, 2025.**

If you have any questions about the Cooperative Leaders Program, please contact Pearl River Valley Electric at **601.947.4211** or email **sgoff@singingriver.com**.

COST

This program is fully funded by Singing River Electric. There are no hidden costs. Singing River Electric pays for all travel, lodging, meals, educational materials, admission fees, etc.