

# YOUTH TO WASHINGTON

## Application Information

### **INFORMATION FOR THE APPLICANT**

Review the following information before completing your application form. You must be able to attend the Illinois Rural Youth Day in Springfield and the Youth to Washington trip to Washington D.C. in order to apply. Review the program dates carefully to make sure you do not have scheduling conflicts.

### **ABOUT YOUTH TO WASHINGTON**

Rural Electric Cooperatives have been sending youth to our nation's capitol to meet congressional leaders and historic sites for over 50 years. To date, over 50,000 students have participated in this unique program. Students on the tour learn about electric cooperatives, American history and our government. For many, this trip becomes a springboard into a rewarding career of governmental service. While on this trip, you will visit historic Washington sites and memorials, visit the nation's Capitol, visit with the Illinois House and Senate leaders and cruise the Potomac.

### **WHO MAY APPLY**

High school sophomores, juniors and seniors who attend a public, private or home school in the service area of SouthEastern Illinois Electric Cooperative or any student whose parent(s) or legal guardian lives on the lines of the Cooperative and attends another school. The schools within the service territory of the Cooperative are: Benton, Carrier Mills, Carterville, Christopher, Crab Orchard, Eldorado, Galatia, Gallatin County, Goreville, Hardin County, Hamilton County, Harrisburg, Herrin, Johnston City, Marion, Massac County, NCOE, Pope County, Sesser-Valier, Thompsonville, Vienna, West Frankfort and Zeigler-Royalton.

### **COST**

There is no cost to the student to attend either of the two trips other than incidental expenditures for souvenirs or snacks.

### **SELECTION PROCESS**

The top two students will be selected to attend Illinois Rural Youth Day in Springfield and Youth to Washington.

### **ATTENDANCE**

Participants must agree to attend Illinois Rural Youth Day and the Youth to Washington Tour.

### **PROGRAM DATES**

Illinois Rural Youth Day is March 25, 2026. The Youth to Washington Tour is June 15 – June 22, 2026.

### **COORDINATION**

Illinois Rural Youth Day is coordinated by the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives (AIEC) in Springfield, Illinois, along with the local Illinois rural electric cooperatives. Youth to Washington is coordinated by the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA), the AIEC and local Illinois rural electric cooperatives.

**APPLICATIONS MUST BE RECEIVED BY FEBRUARY 6, 2026.**



**SouthEastern Illinois Electric Cooperative, Inc.**

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