

Verdigris Valley Electric Cooperative's **Youth Tour Leadership Program** for High School **Juniors** (11th grade) offers you a chance at the opportunity to explore our Nation's Capital and make lifelong connections with many other 11th graders in the summer of 2024. The trip is free to you and is sponsored by Oklahoma's Electric Cooperatives. Dare to lead & learn! Any 11th grader at your school can participate by submitting an essay. **TEACHER INCENTIVE: We're encouraging area schools to get involved. If a teacher administers this essay contest as part of a whole classroom assignment and produces a highest scoring finalist, he or she could be rewarded with \$100.00 toward the purchase of classroom materials or equipment and be featured in VVEC's Newsletter and/or Facebook page. We'd love your participation!!**

What are we talking about? YOUTH TOUR ESSAY CONTEST is for High School **Juniors** (11th grade 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 2024, for 11th graders. While on the trip, you'll make lasting friendships with others and be able to build relationship & leadership skills pertinent to your future, 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** (11th grade) 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. 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 entry form/application is **Friday, March 1st, 2024, no later than 4:00 pm.**
- 7.) Essay Topic is: **"Please explain what Electric Cooperatives are, how they originated and the many ways our communities benefit from them"**.
- 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 the 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 14-20, 2024. *Covid-19/Safety Protocols may be required*

The top finalists will go to Washington D.C. based on the 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, March 1st, 2024.

For More Details: visit our website at www.vvec.com - go to Community Programs, and view Washington Youth Tour.

For more information contact:

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