



Local students join national Electric Cooperative Youth Tour



SEC Youth Tour delegates visiting Capitol Hill. L-R, back row: Virginia Anderson, Jared Hensley, Nathan Simpson, Connor Stimpert and Skyler Byerly. Front row: Jamie Holt, Claire Watson and Caylor Scales.

What do you get when you add local high school students to a mix of 1,800 of their peers from across the United States? You get the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour. Eight students from Southside Electric Cooperative's (SEC) service territory were awarded the chance to attend this

year's Youth Tour in Washington, D.C. These students were selected from a diverse group of applicants:

Virginia Anderson, Homeschooled (Powhatan County);
Skyler Byerly, Jefferson Forest High School;
Jared Hensley, Amelia County High School;
Jamie Holt, Rustburg High School;
Caylor Scales, Cumberland County High School;
Connor Stimpert, Prince Edward County High School;
Nathan Simpson, Appomattox County High School; and
Claire Watson, Fuqua School.

Together with SEC chaperones, they spent a week touring our nation's capital and learning how critical it is to become involved in the legislative process.

SEC's students explored key issues in the electric industry, studied the cooperative business model and interacted with students from across the country. During their visit to Capitol Hill, the students visited their representatives' offices and enjoyed a guided tour of the U.S. Capitol Building. They also toured historical and cultural sites, including the Newseum, National Museum of African American History & Culture and Arlington National Cemetery, and attended both a Washington Nationals baseball game and live performance at the Kennedy Center.

As part of National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA)-sponsored National Youth Day on June 12, all of the state groups convened to learn from inspirational speakers. This year's agenda included Mike Schlappi, a fourtime Paralympic medalist and two-



The Youth Tour delegates pose at the top of the Lincoln Memorial.

time world wheelchair basketball champion, who shared his inspiring message, “Just because you can’t stand up doesn’t mean you can’t stand out!”

Since 1964, the nation’s electric cooperatives have sponsored 65,000 high school juniors and seniors to visit Washington, D.C., talk with their U.S. congressional delegations and learn from energy and grassroots government education sessions. NRECA is the national service organization representing the nation’s more than 900 consumer-owned, not-for-profit electric cooperatives, which provide electric service to 42 million people in 47 states.

For more information about the Youth Tour program, visit www.youthtour.coop. To learn how you can participate in Southside Electric Cooperative’s Washington Youth Tour program, contact SEC Community Relations Coordinator Mark Thomas at 1-800-552-2118.

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