

Each summer, electric cooperatives in more than thirty states, send over 1,000 high school students to our nation's Capitol to learn about government, cooperatives and rural electrification. The electric cooperatives of Illinois send over sixty of these students each summer and six of these are sponsored by Egyptian Electric Cooperative.

While in Washington D.C., these students will have the opportunity to visit many historic sites such as; the Civil War Battlefield in Gettysburg, George Washington's Home and Grounds, the Smithsonian Museums and others. They will also visit places like the U.S. Department of Agriculture, The Royal Embassy of Saudi Arabia, the Kennedy Center, The Bureau of Engraving and many other government buildings and offices. They will also spend time with many of our legislators that represent us in Washington. There is even time for a dance and a cruise on the Potomac River.



How do you get to be a part of this fabulous event? By participating in an essay contest sponsored by Egyptian Electric Cooperative Association. If you are one of the six finalists selected in the contest, you will have the opportunity to see all of these places and more from June 11, to June 18, 2010. Sound interesting? Want to hear more? Then keep reading and we'll tell you about the rules of the contest and how you can enter.

### *Youth Day*

In addition to the six first place trips, all ten semi-finalists and/or the top essayist from each school (if a participating school does not have a semi-finalist, the top essayist from that school) will have the opportunity to attend Illinois Electric & Telephone Cooperative Youth Day in Springfield on April 21, 2010. The students will visit historic Springfield sites and legislative leaders from our area.



### *Who Can Enter*

Any sophomore or junior who attends high school, whether public or parochial, in Sparta, Chester, Trico, Pinckneyville, Carbondale, Carterville, Murphysboro, Elverado, Marissa, Steeleville or Coulterville, or is home schooled within the territory served by the Cooperative, is eligible to enter the essay contest. Sorry, members of the immediate families of any director or full-time employee of Egyptian Electric Cooperative or any other electric cooperative are not eligible to compete.

Any student who has previously been a finalist in the competition will not be allowed to compete a second time and there will be a maximum of two semi-finalists per school allowed.

### *Essay Topic*

Each contestant shall write their essay on the topic "*Are Entitlements Leading to a Budget Crisis?*" The student should familiarize themselves with current levels of entitlement programs and projections of future costs. The student should discuss whether entitlement programs may or may not lead to a national budget crisis and then support their position with research. In addition to the furnished research, contestants may consider discussions with community and economic development and educational leaders, economists and government leaders in their community. Essays are judged on the quality of writing and research conducted, not on the position taken.

### *Essay Form*

Essays must be typed on 8 1/2" by 11" paper, double spaced, one side only and should not exceed 1,000 words. Assistance in editing the essay, i.e., grammar, punctuation, sentence structure, spelling, etc., is permissible.

The essay should take the form of a persuasive essay. The student's name must not appear on the submitted essay and works cited should be shown on a separate, attached page.

### *Resource Material*

Contestants may secure information from various, reliable sources. Political leaders, community and economic development leaders and specialists, school administrators, magazine and newspaper articles, and the internet may be good sources of information. You will also find a number of articles on this topic on our web site, [www.eeca.coop](http://www.eeca.coop), *Youth Programs* for links to the research pages. The validity and reliability of the author's sources will be taken into account via the support points.

### *Preliminary Judging*

Ten semi-finalists will be selected by a preliminary panel of judges based on the awarding of points as follows:

Focus	20 Points
Support	30
Organization	20
Style	15
Conventions	15

**Focus:** Does the paper present and maintain a clear main idea or point of view throughout?

**Support:** Is the main point or position fully supported by specific facts and are the sources of these facts clearly credited?

**Organization:** Do ideas flow logically? Is there clear and effective organization?

**Style:** Does the paper exhibit original thinking and effective sentence structure and word choices?

**Conventions:** Does the paper use standard written English (spelling, punctuation, grammar)?

The *contestant's name must not appear on the essay*, only on the entry form which shall be attached to the essay with a paper clip. The entry form must be signed by a parent/legal guardian granting permission for the entrant to take the trips if the contestant is declared a finalist.

The essays will be numbered for judging purposes and the name retained by Egyptian Electric for judge impartiality. All entries meeting the above requirements will be submitted to the preliminary judging panel.

### *Last Day for Essays*

Essays must be received on or before March 5, 2010, at either office of Egyptian Electric Cooperative Association. (PO Box 38, Steeleville, IL 62288, or 10169 Old Highway 13, Murphysboro, IL 62966.)

### *Final Judging*

Six finalists will be chosen from the ten semi-finalists at a banquet on April 27, 2010, in the Old Main Room, Student Center, SIU-Carbondale. The student's parents and sponsoring teacher are invited to attend this banquet. A new judging panel will select the six winners based on the awarding of points as follows:

Focus	15	Points
Support	15	
Organization	10	
Style	10	
Conventions	10	
Oral Presentation	40	

In case of a tie, total points awarded by the judges for the oral presentation will be used as the tie breaker. The decision of the judges will be final.

### *Information*

Please direct all inquires about the contest to:

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### *How Did Youth Tour get Started?*

Senator Lyndon Johnson inspired the Youth Tour when he addressed the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) Annual Meeting in 1957. The future president declared, "If one thing goes out of this meeting, it will be sending youngsters to the national capital where they can actually see what the flag stands for and represents."

Texas electric cooperatives sent young people to Washington to work in Senator Johnson's office during that summer. In 1958, Iowa sponsored the first group on a week-long study tour of the nation's capital. That same year, another busload came to Washington from Illinois. The idea grew and other states sent young people throughout the summer. By 1959, the "Youth Tour" had grown to 130 youths.

In 1964, NRECA began coordinating joint activities among the state delegations and suggested that co-op representatives from each state arrange to be in Washington, D.C. during Youth Tour week. Word of the program has continued to spread and today, more than 1,500 young people and their chaperones participate in the Youth Tour every year



**Egyptian Electric  
Cooperative Association**

Your Touchstone Energy Cooperative



PO Box 38  
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[www.eeca.coop](http://www.eeca.coop)



**Youth to Washington  
2010 Essay Contest**



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