



## **2026 Youth Tour Contest**

**Sponsored by Nobles Cooperative Electric**

- Awards:**
1. 1st Place: Washington Youth Tour
  2. 2nd Place: First alternate and \$150
  3. 3rd Place: Second alternate and \$100
  4. \$500 Scholarship winner
  5. First 15 applicants receive a \$20 gift certificate to Amazon.com.

**Eligibility:**

The contest is open to any current high school freshmen, sophomores, juniors, or seniors attending school in Nobles' service area. Visit the website: <https://www.mrea.org/programs/youth-tour/>.

**Contest:**

1. Contestant writes a 300-word essay (no more than two pages double-spaced) on a topic determined by the cooperative. This year's topic: What lesson from American history do you think is most important for your generation to remember, and why?
2. Complete the attached application.
3. Submit completed essay and application form by **February 20, 2026**, to:  
Nobles Cooperative Electric  
Attn: Tracey Haberman  
P.O. Box 56, 1505 20<sup>th</sup> Street  
Slayton, MN 56172
4. A judging committee will select five finalists from the essays submitted.
5. Five finalists will be interviewed (15 minutes per finalist) in March.
6. For further information on the Youth Tour Contest, please contact Tracey Haberman at Nobles Cooperative Electric. Phone: 800-776-0517. Email: [thaberman@nobles.coop](mailto:thaberman@nobles.coop).

# 2026 Youth Tour

## Some of the highlights of the trip:

- **Tour the monuments:** Washington Monument, Lincoln Memorial, Jefferson Memorial, Franklin Delano Roosevelt Memorial, Vietnam Veterans Memorial, Korean Veterans Memorial, Arlington Cemetery, etc...
- **Tour historic sights:** Washington National Cathedral, Supreme Court, Library of Congress, Smithsonian Museums, Holocaust Memorial Museum, FBI Headquarters Tour, Mount Vernon, etc.
- **Attend special events:** Moonlight cruise & dance on the Potomac River, U.S. Army Precision Drill Team, all-states dinner & dance, etc.
- **Interact with:** 1,900 teenagers from across the U.S. sponsored by rural electric cooperatives, meet with your Members of Congress, and make new lifelong friends.
- **Go places:** interview to be the Minnesota representative on the Youth Leadership Council. If selected, you will travel back to D.C. next year as an assistant to Youth Tour, to the National Rural Electric Convention, and the leadership training seminar in Lincoln, Nebraska.
- **These resources** you may find beneficial: Nobles Cooperative Electric ([www.nobles.coop](http://www.nobles.coop)), National Rural Electric Cooperative Association ([www.electric.coop](http://www.electric.coop)), and Minnesota Rural Electrical Association (<https://www.mrea.org/programs/youth-tour/>).

*Places and events are subject to change depending on scheduling.*

**Application Form for  
NOBLES COOPERTIVE ELECTRIC'S  
2026 Youth Tour Contest**

(If more space is needed, attach on a separate page.)

**PART I. GENERAL**

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_ CITY, STATE & ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

AGE: \_\_\_\_\_ DATE OF BIRTH: \_\_\_\_\_ PARENTS'/GUARDIANS' NAMES: \_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

**PART II. SCHOOL RELATED**

NAME AND ADDRESS OF SCHOOL: \_\_\_\_\_

CURRENT GRADE IN SCHOOL: \_\_\_\_\_ FRESHMAN \_\_\_\_\_ SOPHOMORE \_\_\_\_\_ JUNIOR \_\_\_\_\_ SENIOR

FAVORITE SCHOOL SUBJECTS: \_\_\_\_\_

CAREER GOAL: \_\_\_\_\_

List activities that you have participated in and any special honors you have received during your high school attendance such as, class officer, plays, music, athletics, etc.:

ACTIVITY	YEARS	REMARKS
_____		
_____		
_____		
_____		
_____		
_____		

**PART III. EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES**

List extra-curricular activities and years of involvement in which you have participated, such as 4-H, FHA, FFA, church, community and service clubs:

ACTIVITY	YEARS	REMARKS
_____		
_____		
_____		
_____		
_____		
_____		

(OVER)

PLEASE LIST ANY PUBLIC SPEAKING EXPERIENCE:

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PLEASE LIST ANY WRITING EXPERIENCE SUCH AS SCHOOL NEWSPAPER, YEARBOOK, ETC.:

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EXPLAIN HOW YOU HAVE CONTRIBUTED OR CAN CONTRIBUTE TO YOUR COMMUNITY MORE EFFECTIVELY:

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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION THAT MAY BE OF INTEREST TO THOSE MAKING SELECTIONS:

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HOW DID YOU HEAR ABOUT THE YOUTH TOUR?

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**IV. PARENT OR GUARDIAN PERMISSION FORM**

TO: NOBLES COOPERATIVE ELECTRIC:

I/We hereby give \_\_\_\_\_ permission to submit his/her name as a candidate for selection to the Washington Youth Tour; if selected, I give him/her permission to travel as required.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**Due by February 20, 2026. Mail or drop off at:**

NOBLES COOPERATIVE ELECTRIC  
ATTN: TRACEY HABERMAN  
PO BOX 56  
1505 20<sup>th</sup> STREET  
SLAYTON, MN 56172