



# 2026 Youth Tour Application

Experience the Trip of a Lifetime to Washington, D.C.

June 14 - 20, 2026

Sponsored by:  Surry-Yadkin Electric  
Membership Corporation  
A Touchstone Energy Cooperative

## Applicant Information

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ School: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Are you employed? \_\_\_\_\_ If YES, where? \_\_\_\_\_ High School GPA: \_\_\_\_\_

I certify that this information is true, complete and accurate. I authorize release of information to confirm and/or verify this application. I further authorize release of my name in connection with announcements of Youth Tour awards in the event that I am selected to be a Surry-Yadkin EMC Youth Tour delegate. I grant Surry-Yadkin EMC and the North Carolina Association of Electric Cooperatives permission to take my photograph during the Youth Tour reception and the trip to Washington, D.C., and understand that these photographs may appear in marketing pieces to promote future Youth Tour programs.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Applicant signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Guardian signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

**Application Deadline: Friday, December 12, 2025**

**Mail or Hand Deliver to:**

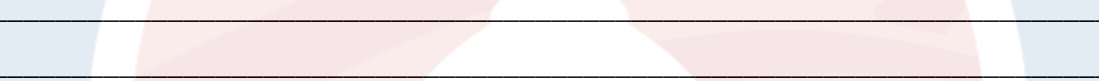
SYEMC Youth Tour  
510 S. Main St.  
P.O. Box 305  
Dobson, NC 27017

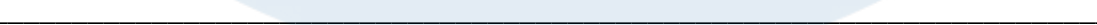
**Applications may also be emailed to:** [communications@syemc.com](mailto:communications@syemc.com)



*(Please note: You may attach a separate piece of paper if you need more space to answer the questions below.)*

- YOUTH TOUR
- (5 points)

- 
- (5 points)

- 
- (5 points)



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## Essay Question

In 500 words or less, describe what impresses you most about the Cooperative Business Model.

*Please type your answer on a separate sheet. Grammar and punctuation will also be evaluated, so please be sure to proofread your answer. Use the resources below and at [syemc.com](http://syemc.com) to research your answer. You may also interview SYEMC employees and directors.* (50 points)

## Oral Presentation

Applicants with the top four scores will be invited to Surry-Yadkin EMC headquarters to present their essay topic to a panel of judges. The two applicants with the highest combined score will represent Surry-Yadkin EMC on the Youth Tour trip and leadership experience in Washington, D.C., as well as receive a \$500 scholarship. Two runner-up finalists will be chosen as delegates to the Cooperative Council of North Carolina's Cooperative Leadership Camp.

(35 points)

## Resources

### Websites

[syemc.com](http://syemc.com) (Surry-Yadkin EMC)

[nreca.coop](http://nreca.coop) (National Rural Electric Cooperatives Association)

[touchstoneenergy.com](http://touchstoneenergy.com) (Touchstone Energy Cooperatives)

### Publications

Carolina Country (monthly publication for North Carolina's electric cooperatives)

Member Connections (monthly publication for members of SYEMC, found inside Carolina Country)

RE Magazine (national publication for rural electric cooperative members and personnel)



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## Contest Guidelines

### Student Eligibility

The SYEMC Youth Tour contest is open to any high school junior (rising senior) who resides in or attends school in the SYEMC service area. Homeschooled students are also eligible to apply if they reside within SYEMC's geographical service area. (Children of SYEMC employees and directors are not eligible.)

### Application Content

- Signed copy of the completed 2026 Youth Tour Application.
- Brief written statement explaining why you wish to attend Youth Tour.
- Letter of recommendation from a teacher, coach, employer or other youth organization leader.

### Application Delivery and Deadline

Applications must be received by 5 p.m. on Friday, December 12, 2025.

*Completed applications can be mailed or delivered to:*

SYEMC Youth Tour, 510 S. Main St., P.O. Box 305, Dobson, NC 27017;

*or emailed to:*

[communications@syemc.com](mailto:communications@syemc.com).