South Plains Electric Cooperative

WIN THE TRIP OF A LIFETIME AND A $1,500 SCHOLARSHIP!

YOUTH TOUR



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Contest Details

Eligibility

- Applicants must be a high school junior or senior.
- Applicants must be a member, a child or stepchild of a member, or child whose guardian is a member of the Cooperative; or person living in a home where the landlord is a member.
- Applicants must reside in the Cooperative service area, participate in Operation Round Up, and attend a qualifying school. If you are not currently participating in Operation Round Up, we'll automatically enroll you when you submit the Youth Tour application. The qualifying schools are: Abernathy, Anton, Aspermont, Childress, Chillicothe, Coronado, Cotton Center, Crosbyton, Crowell, Estacado, Floydada, Frenship, Guthrie, Hale Center, Idalou, Jayton-Girard, Lorenzo, Lubbock-Cooper, Lubbock, Monterey, Motley Co., New Deal, New Home, Olton, Paducah, Petersburg, Plainview, Post, Quanah, Ralls, Roosevelt, Ropesville, Rotan, Shallowater, Slaton, Southland, Smyer, Spur and Wilson. If you are attending a private school, charter school or are home-schooled, your application will be subject to eligibility verification.
- The trip will take place June 15-23, 2027.

Contest Rules

- Participants will be required to complete an online application, essay questions and virtual interview.
- Applications and interviews will be judged and four students will be selected as SPEC Youth Tour representatives and Operation Round Up Youth Tour scholarship recipients.

Interview Requirements

- Applicants will be required to select an interview time when submitting their application. Interviews will take place virtually. You will be contacted prior to your interview with details on how to join the interview online.
- Applicants will have 5-7 minutes of interview time. Possible interview questions are listed on the last page of this document.
- At the time of your interview, please make sure you have a good internet connection and are in a non-distracting, quiet location.

Contest Details, continued

Judging

- Participants will be judged based on their essay questions, knowledge of subject, how well they present themselves, their speaking ability, appearance, and poise.
- Four students will be selected to represent South Plains Electric Cooperative in Washington, D.C.
- Operation Round Up will be awarding each student selected to represent South Plains Electric Cooperative on the Youth Tour a $1,500 scholarship. In order to receive your scholarship, the student will be required to send photos from the trip as well as participate in an on-camera interview, if asked.

Deadlines, Dates and Times

- Applications open– November 9, 2026
- Application Deadline – January 8, 2027; 5 p.m.
- Virtual Interview Deadline – January 14, 2027; 5 p.m.
- Winners will be notified by February 19, 2027; 5 p.m.

Questions

- Questions should be addressed to jreece@SPEC.coop.

Possible Interview Questions

Co-op Questions

1. What year was your cooperative formed?
2. How many directors serve on the board of directors of your cooperative?
3. About how many meters does your cooperative serve?
4. About how many members does your cooperative serve?
5. Your cooperative serves all or part of how many counties?
6. Where is the headquarters office of your cooperative?
7. What is the name of the generation and transmission cooperative from which your cooperative purchases wholesale electricity?
8. What is one of the Seven Cooperative Principles?
9. Who inspired the creation of Youth Tour?
10. How many years has Texas been participating in Youth Tour?
11. What is a difference between an electric cooperative and an investor-owned utility?
12. Ocean Spray is a cooperative business. Can you name other companies that follow the cooperative business model?
13. What do you think is the electric cooperative's responsibility in the community?

Personal Questions

1. Tell us about yourself and why you think you would be an ideal candidate to represent your cooperative in Washington, D.C.
2. What excites you the most about the possibility of going to Washington, D.C., on Youth Tour?
3. What do you like to do for fun?
4. What are your education and career goals?
5. How would this opportunity help you achieve your life goals?
6. Have you ever traveled to Washington, D.C., or any other big city?

Government Questions

1. Name the three branches of the federal government and explain the duties of each.
2. If you could ask your congressional representative one question, what would you ask and why?
3. If you could ask the president a question, what would you ask and why?
4. Who is your United States Representative?