



# Rappahannock Electric Cooperative

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

## 2021 Washington Youth Tour



**Current High School Juniors are Eligible to Apply!**  
**Application Deadline: February 1, 2021**  
**2021 Youth Tour Dates: June 20 – 24, 2021**

# est. 1964 YOUTH TOUR



**“Speaking with those who create our laws gave me a greater understanding of how our government works and how lawmakers tackle the critical issues of the day.”**

*Joseph Flynn, REC Youth Tour delegate from William Monroe High School*

Senator Lyndon Baines Johnson inspired the Youth Tour when he addressed the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) Annual Meeting in Chicago in 1957. The Senator and 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."

In 1958, a rural electric cooperative in Iowa sponsored the first group of 34 young people on a weeklong study tour of the nation's capital. Later that same year, another busload came to Washington from Illinois. The idea grew and other states sent busloads of young people throughout the summer. By 1959, the "Youth Tour" had grown to 130 youths.

In 1964, the NRECA began to coordinate 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. The first year of the coordinated tour included approximately 400 young people from 12 states. Word of the program has continued to spread and today, more than 1,800 young people and their chaperones participate in the Youth Tour every year.

In the 1960's, both Virginia Electric Cooperative and Northern Piedmont Electric Cooperative came to understand the importance of the newly created National Rural Electric Washington Youth Tour. Not only could high school students learn about electric cooperatives, the legislative process, and meet with their peers from across the country, they would also learn a valuable life lesson. Through this once in a lifetime experience, these students would later become concerned community citizens better aware of the issues facing their communities. Rappahannock Electric Cooperative has continued to recognize this value and maintained its support of Youth Tour. Since 1980 alone, more than 300 students representing their communities and REC have taken part in this experience. You can add to the Youth Tour legacy and make a difference in your community.

**Log on to [www.youthtour.coop](http://www.youthtour.coop) today to learn more!**



**“I could not have been prepared for the amazing experiences I encountered. From the first day on we had one thing after another. Youth Tour provides once in a lifetime opportunity!”**

*Niall Lowrie, REC Youth Tour delegate from Caroline County High School*



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## 2021 Washington Youth Tour

**INSTRUCTIONS:** Please complete this application in its entirety by **5 p.m. February 1, 2021** and return to:

Senior Public Relations Specialist  
Rappahannock Electric Cooperative  
P.O. Box 7388  
Fredericksburg, VA 22404  
Fax: 540-891-5878 — E-mail: [community@myrec.coop](mailto:community@myrec.coop)

**Applications may be dropped off at any REC office, faxed, emailed or postmarked by the deadline.**

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ AGE: \_\_\_\_\_ DATE OF BIRTH: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE (H): \_\_\_\_\_ E-MAIL ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

PARENTS/GUARDIANS NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

NAME OF YOUR HIGH SCHOOL: \_\_\_\_\_

CURRENT GRADE IN SCHOOL: \_\_\_\_\_ CAREER GOALS: \_\_\_\_\_

**SCHOOL/EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES:** List scholastic activities that you have participated in for school or in your community, any special awards or honors you have received or offices you have held. Be sure to include dates of participation.

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**PLEASE LIST ANY PUBLIC SPEAKING OR WRITING EXPERIENCE:** \_\_\_\_\_

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**HOBBIES & SPECIAL INTERESTS:** \_\_\_\_\_

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**Choose ONE of the following two activities to complete:**

**LETTER:** Write a letter to an elected official about an important issue you are interested in and attach it to this application. This letter should be no more than one page in length. You may choose to write in favor of or against this issue. The topic for the letter may be of local, state or national interest. And depending on the topic, the letter should be addressed to your representative on your county board of supervisors, to Richmond to your General Assembly members or to Washington, D.C. to your members of Congress.

**OR**

**VIDEO:** Create a video of no more than 90 seconds. Use this video to introduce yourself. The video should be creative, fun, and interactive. It should accomplish the following: Introduce yourself, describe any community or school activities you are involved in, let us know what hobbies, talents and special interests you may have, tells us what your future plans are, and let us know how the Washington Youth Tour will benefit your future ambitions. To submit the video, upload to YouTube and include a link to the video in the application here: \_\_\_\_\_

**ALSO Provide one:**

**Letter of Recommendation:** Attach a letter from an adult who is a school, community, or church leader. This person should not be your parent, guardian, or other relative. Reference should include the following information: How have you become acquainted with the student? How long have you known this student? Why do you feel this student would be a valuable representative on the Washington, D.C. Youth Tour?

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Questions concerning the Washington Youth Tour  
should be addressed to:  
**Brian Wolfe, Senior Public Relations Specialist**  
**1-800-552-3904, ext. 5914**  
**community@myrec.coop**