

YOUTH TOUR EXPERIENCE 2025 QUALIFICATIONS AND PROCEDURES

Each summer, Paulding Putnam Electric Cooperative sponsors two students from our membership that attend an Ohio or Indiana school for the annual Youth Tour trip to Washington, D.C. in June. Selected winners can learn about our nation's Capital, the government and rural electric cooperatives while seeing the historic and cultural sights of the Washington, D.C. area. Many tours are VIP visits to areas not available to the general public. More than 1,800 students from up to 46 states will travel to Washington for the weeklong experience. There is an opportunity for students to make life-long friendships and valuable contacts.

The program is coordinated by Ohio Electric Cooperatives (OEC) and Paulding Putnam Electric Cooperative (PPEC). All transportation, lodging, meals and admission costs are included. For safety considerations, a registered nurse, doctor and dentist are on call at the hotel at all times. This year, the Youth Tour will take place June 15-22 for Indiana, and June 15-21, 2025, for Ohio.

YOUTH TOUR RULES AND ELIGIBILITY

- Entrants must be the child or legal ward of a Paulding Putnam Electric Cooperative, Inc. residential member living on the lines and receiving service at the time of the competition. The account must be in the parent's name.
- Entrants must be a high school Sophomore or Junior at the time of application due date. Homeschooled students are eligible to apply.
- Applications must be received by Paulding Putnam Electric Cooperative office by 4:00 p.m. on February 10, 2025. Incomplete applications are ineligible.
- The Youth Tour Committee and Entrants will be provided with the Cooperative Difference video link about electric cooperatives and the seven cooperative principals by which co-ops operate. Applicants will be asked to participate in a multiple-choice test to be included with the application. There is also a personal interview that will be scheduled with the Youth Tour Committee held at Paulding Putnam Electric Cooperative.
- Questions asked in the interview will include knowledge of cooperatives, specifically Paulding Putnam electric Cooperative, scholastic achievements and career goals.
- The committee will weigh responses based on content quality and presentation abilities.
- The selected winning delegates will be notified within one week. A runner-up will also be selected in the event the winning delegate cannot attend.

ONCE SELECTED AS A YOUTH TOUR DELEGATE

- One student will be chosen to represent PPEC on the all expense paid Youth Tour to Washington, D.C., in June. Winners will be notified and presented at their home school.
- Ohio's Electric Cooperative (OEC) will follow up with the winning representatives and their parents via telephone and email.
- The candidate representing PPEC is strongly encouraged to compete during the Youth Tour for election to represent Ohio/Indiana on the National Rural Electric Association (NRECA) Youth Leadership Council. Well-qualified, well-prepared candidates who are friendly, outgoing, and positive have an excellent chance of being selected by their fellow students for this additional honor. Only one representative from each state is elected to the council. Information is available on NRECA's website <https://www.electric.coop/our-organization/youth-programs/youth-leadership-council/>
- Representatives will be asked to return the following year to share their experience.