

2022 Youth Tour Essay Contest Winners Announced

Ozark Border Electric Cooperative's Youth Tour Essay Contest challenges high school juniors to write an essay for the chance to win one of two all-expenses paid trips to the Rural Electric Youth Tour in Washington, D.C. The seven-day tour provides an action-filled week, offering students opportunities to gain experience firsthand what it is like to be involved in politics, leadership positions and community service.

Two second-place winners receive a trip to Jefferson City for the Cooperative Youth Conference & Leadership Experience (CYCLE). The three-day program includes nationally known speakers and a day at the state Capitol. The conference shows students more about electric cooperatives, Missouri government and teaches leadership skills. Six finalists also receive a cash prize.

The two high school juniors chosen to represent OBEC at the 2022 Youth Tour in Washington D.C.: Marie Wheeler – Campbell High School and Ashlynn Pratt - Westwood Baptist Academy. CYCLE delegates: Houston Davis – Westwood Baptist Academy and Hannah Patterson – Twin Rivers High School. Finalists earning a cash prize: Sierra Fleming – Puxico High School, Nathan Collier, Jeffrey VanDover, Josiah Robbins, Alex Blalock, and Joel Hanks from Westwood Baptist Academy.

The Youth Tour events were cancelled in 2020 and 2021 due to the pandemic. We are excited the trips are back and our youth will be gathering for these amazing experiences, congratulations to all the winners!

Washington D.C. Trip Winners



Ashlynn Pratt
Westwood Baptist Academy



Marie Wheeler
Campbell High School

CYCLE Trip Winners



Houston Davis
Westwood Baptist Academy



Hannah Patterson
Twin Rivers High School

Cash Prize Winners



Alex Blalock
Westwood Baptist Academy



Nathan Collier
Westwood Baptist Academy



Sierra Fleming
Puxico High School



Joel Hanks
Westwood Baptist Academy



Josiah Robbins
Westwood Baptist Academy



Jeffrey VanDover
Westwood Baptist Academy