

New Mexico Youth Tour Delegates Visit U.S. Capitol

High school students Adams, Autrey, Encinias, Fernandez, Lightfoot, Morales, Mulnix, Munoz, and Regalado sponsored by CNMEC

SANTA FE, N.M. – Forty-two high school students from New Mexico participated in the 67th anniversary of National Rural Electric Cooperative Association’s (NRECA) Youth Tour in Washington, D.C. June 17-23. Local delegates were Colton Adams, Calvin Autrey, Nora Encinias, Humberto Fernandez, Hadley Lightfoot, Janet Morales, Emma Mulnix, Anthony Munoz, and Pablo Regalado. They were sponsored by Central New Mexico Electric Cooperative, Inc. (CNMEC).

The seven-day tour provided an action-filled trip for high school students, offering them opportunities to learn first-hand what it is like to be involved in politics, community service, and today’s pressing issues. Highlights included special sessions on Capitol Hill with Cliff Ho, Legislative Fellow for U.S. Senator Martin Heinrich (D-N.M.); Todd Ringler, Senior Policy Advisor for Energy, Climate, and The Environment for Ben Ray Lujan (D-N.M.); and Elizabeth Arvelo, Senior Advisor for U.S. Congressmen Teresa Leger Fernandez (D-N.M. – 3rd District).

“The Youth Tour students from New Mexico demonstrated a true passion for learning about democracy and government. They asked some tough questions on everything from renewable energy, fossil fuel production, climate change legislation, to the 30x30 campaign. It is great to see high school students eager to learn and gain leadership skills. Building strong leaders out of today’s young people is essential to our nation’s future,” said Cliff Ho.

New Mexico’s Youth Tour delegates toured famous monuments, memorials, the Smithsonian Institution’s museums, and George Washington’s Mount Vernon Estate. Angelica Barbaro, Haylie Bidegain, Kohan Evans, and Zephaniah Guerro participated in a formal ceremony at Arlington National Cemetery by dedicating and laying a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, in front of more than forty New Mexico Honor Flight heroes and their families. The group also attended the U.S. Marine Corps Sunset Parade one evening with delegates from other states.

Other events of the week included participation in the NRECA Youth Day program, during which a special program coordinated by NRECA brought together more than 2,000 Youth Tour delegates from across the United States. Some of the nation’s best and brightest high school students enjoyed speeches by government leaders and motivational speakers, such as Mike Schlappi, an inspiring four-time Paralympic medalist and two-time world wheelchair basketball champion.



Central New Mexico Electric Cooperative, Inc. Youth Tour delegates (L-R): *Emma Mulnix, Colton Adams, Nora Encinias, Calvin Autrey, Humberto Fernandez, Anthony Munoz, Hadley Lightfoot, Pablo Regalado, and Janet Morales*

Raising Up The Next Generation of Leaders



Sophia Sedillo
Summer Intern

hand or offer a listening ear. CNMEC feels like home to me—it's my second family.

The skills I've gained at the co-op have opened doors for me, allowing me to secure jobs and internships throughout the school year. I've learned the essence of teamwork, the importance of hard work in an office setting, and the art of problem-solving.

In my senior year of high school, I applied for the Central New Mexico Electric Cooperative Scholarship. In April, I was thrilled to learn that I had been selected as a recipient. This scholarship has been a game-changer for me, making college more accessible and easing the financial burden. I remain deeply grateful for the support from my co-op community.

Thanks to CNMEC, I have been able to focus on my studies and secure employment opportunities during my college years without the constant worry of tuition fees.

I am now a junior at New Mexico State University, where I study Agriculture Communications, with minors in Social Media Management and Agriculture Business Management. Additionally, I serve as a two-year ambassador for the College of Agriculture, Consumer, and Environmental Sciences. My involvement in various campus organizations has afforded me leadership roles at both local and national levels.

I owe a significant part of my success to the unwavering support from CNMEC. They have been instrumental in guiding me through the pivotal moments of my life, and for that, I am endlessly thankful.

Sophia Sedillo

Hello friends and members of CNMEC,

My name is Sophia Sedillo, and I am proud to be a four-year summer intern and scholarship recipient here at Central New Mexico Electric Cooperative. (CNMEC).

I began my journey with CNMEC during the summer of 2021 and have returned every summer since. The friendships and mentorships I have forged here are truly the highlight of my experience. The supportive environment at CNMEC has given me lifelong friends and mentors who are always ready to lend a helping

ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP OF THE MONTH

Placing heat sources, such as lamps, computers or TVs, near your thermostat can result in false temperature readings, increased energy use and inconsistent cooling/heating. Make sure your thermostat is installed in an area clear of obstructions, electronic devices, direct sunlight and drafts.

Ensuring your thermostat is free from these types of interferences optimizes energy efficiency, improves indoor comfort and reduces wear and tear on your cooling/heating system.

Source: energy.gov



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