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NEWS

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:
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Central New Mexico Electric's Youth Tour Contest Kicks Off

MOUNTAINAIR, N.M. – Central New Mexico Electric Cooperative, Inc. (CNMEC) is inviting high school juniors from Bernalillo, Chaves, DeBaca, Guadalupe, Lincoln, San Miguel, Sandoval, Santa Fe, Socorro, Torrance, and Valencia counties to take part in its annual Youth Tour essay contest. This year marks the 40th anniversary of the program, which selects delegates to attend the National Youth Tour Conference in Washington, D.C., from June 15-23, 2025.

The essay topic: “My Favorite Cooperative Principle.” Students are asked to write a 500-1,000-word composition and submit their entries by Monday, January 20, 2025. Essays and applications can be delivered or mailed to CNMEC offices in Moriarty or Mountainair, with contest rules and application forms available at www.cnmec.org.

“This program gives high school students the incredible opportunity to represent New Mexico in our nation’s capital,” said Alena Brandenberger, CNMEC CEO. “Touring Washington, D.C., meeting elected officials, and experiencing our democratic institutions firsthand can be life changing. I’m confident our students will return home with innovative ideas to benefit their futures and our communities.”

Students may apply independently or through their schools. CNMEC covers all costs for participating students, ensuring there is no financial burden on families.

Ten students will be selected to attend the Youth Tour in Washington, D.C.

Since 1964, CNMEC has sponsored over 150 students for the Youth Tour, giving them the chance to meet with congressional delegations, explore historic landmarks, and participate in energy and leadership sessions. Nationwide, more than 50,000 high school students have participated in this transformative program.

“We deeply appreciate the support of educators who encourage students to participate and allow us to speak in their classrooms,” said Curtis D. Belcher, Manager of Member Services & Communications.

The contest is open to high school juniors and seniors residing in CNMEC’s service area or whose homes receive CNMEC electric service. Immediate family members of CNMEC employees or directors are not eligible to participate.

As a member-driven electric cooperative, CNMEC serves over 13,500 members across 11 counties and 4,500 miles of line. Rooted in the community, CNMEC remains dedicated to delivering sustainable and affordable energy while supporting local growth and leadership development.

For additional information, visit www.cnmec.org.



Cutline: Central New Mexico Electric Cooperative’s 2024 Youth Tour delegates, shown here on Capitol Hill, will pass the torch of leadership to a new group of juniors this spring. These delegates, now seniors, include (L-R): Emma Mulnix, Colton Adams, Nora Encinias, Calvin Autrey, Humberto Fernandez, Anthony Munoz, Hadley Lightfoot, Pablo Regalado, and Janet Morales. Visit www.cnmec.org for complete 2025 Youth Tour essay contest details.

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