



2026 GOVERNMENT-IN-ACTION YOUTH LEADERSHIP TOUR APPLICATION

 **Application Deadline:** Sunday, February 1, 2026

How to Apply

1. **Visit** Youth Leadership Tour at <https://www.nueceselectric.org/youthtour>
2. **Review** the Eligibility and Requirements and Instructions.
3. **Download** the application and complete it **in full**, following all eligibility guidelines.
4. **Submit** the completed application and all required documents **as a single PDF file** to Youth Leadership Tour at <https://www.nueceselectric.org/youthtour>.
5. **Await notification of results.** Good luck!

 For questions, call **361-387-2581** (ask for the Communications Department) or email communications@nueceselectric.org

Youth Leadership Tour Details & Itinerary

The Government-In-Action Youth Leadership Tour 2025 is an incredible, all-expenses-paid opportunity for high school students to explore the workings of government, meet their members of Congress, and visit iconic historical sites. This year, we're excited to send **two** delegates from the cooperative to take part in this once-in-a-lifetime experience!

The tour kicks off in Austin, Texas, on June 15th and then heads to Washington, D.C., before returning to Austin on June 22nd. Transportation between NEC and Austin will be provided by the cooperative. The travel package, valued at around \$3,600, covers everything – air travel, hotel accommodations, meals, admission fees, and even a \$250 stipend for miscellaneous expenses.

Each winner will join over 120 high school students for a tour of the Texas State Capitol, Bob Bullock Texas State History Museum, U.S. Capitol, Supreme Court, Arlington National Cemetery, Smithsonian Institution, and many other national landmarks.

And that's not all! Each winner will also receive a \$1,000 scholarship upon attending an accredited Texas college or university.

This is a unique chance to experience our nation's history, gain invaluable leadership insights, and take home some amazing memories! Don't miss out!

Eligibility & Application Process

Eligibility

- Must be a high school junior.
- Cannot have previously participated in Youth Tour through any Texas electric cooperative.
- Must live with a parent or legal guardian who is an NEC member.

Application Requirements

- Submit a completed application and a **3-minute video** or a full-page essay on “**Member-Owned: You're Not Just a Customer, You're an Owner.**”
- Include a recent headshot (digital photo).
- Deadline: **Sunday, February 1, 2026**
- All video submissions become NEC property.

Video and/or Essay Guidelines

- **Length:** 3- minutes (video) or a full one page (essay)
- **Evaluation:** Accuracy, grammar, originality, and content.
- **Video Technical Requirements:** Clear audio and visible face throughout the video.

Video and/or Essay Content & Submission

Theme: “**Member-Owned: You're Not Just a Customer, You're an Owner.**”

(NEC is owned by the people it serves, called members. Research how being a ‘member-owner’ is different from being a customer at other utilities, and explain what rights and responsibilities come with co-op membership.)

1. Introduction:

- State your full name and high school.
- Share an interesting fact about yourself (hobbies, passions, goals, etc.).
- Briefly mention what “member-owned” means to you or why this theme caught your interest.

2. Main Content:

- Explain what it means to be a *member-owner* of an electric cooperative, and how that differs from being a *customer* of another utility.
- Describe what rights and responsibilities come with being a cooperative member (for example: voting, community involvement or supporting local decisions).
- Share how NEC’s member-owned structure benefits your community or could benefit you personally in the future.

3. Conclusion:

- Summarize key takeaways from your research (new insights, skills, or perspective changes).

4. Submission Instructions:

- **Essay:** Include your essay with your application into one singular PDF file
- **Video:** Upload your video to **Google Drive** and share it with **communications@nueceselectric.org**
- Ensure link-sharing is enabled so NEC can access the video.
- Submit essay or video by **Sunday, February 1, 2026.**

Finalist Selection & Interview

- Finalists will be chosen for an **in-person interview**.
- Interviews will be scored on **government knowledge, poise, and communication skills**.
- Questions will be provided in advance.

Winner Requirements

- Attend the **Youth Leadership Tour (June 15–22, 2026)**.
- Must be able to fly and travel by car/bus for up to 12 hours per day (with breaks).
- Speak at NEC's **October Annual Membership Meeting** about the Youth Tour experience.
- A guardian-signed waiver is required for participation.

First Runner-Up

- A runner-up will be selected in case the winner is unable to participate or represent NEC appropriately.

Tips for Success:

- Be clear and concise in your responses.
- Follow all instructions and meet the deadline.
- Speak confidently and ensure good audio and video quality.
- Be creative and authentic in expressing your thoughts.

We look forward to receiving your video or reading your essay and wish you the best of luck!

If you have any questions or concerns, please email communications@nueceselectric.org or call 361-387-2581. An NEC representative will reach out if there are any issues with your video file.

⚠ Failure to follow all instructions, including submitting documents in the correct format, may result in disqualification.

 **Submit your application upon completion to:**

 <https://www.nueceselectric.org/youthtour>.



Nueces Electric Cooperative



Applicant's Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Cell Phone: _____

Email Address: _____

High School Name: _____

High School City: _____

High School County: _____

Parent/Guardian Name(s): _____

Is your parent/guardian your mother, father, or other? Please specify: _____

Parent/Guardian Phone Number(s): _____

NEC Account #: _____

Name of the NEC Primary Account # Holder: _____

I understand that my child is competing for a fully funded trip to Washington, D.C., from **June 15th to June 22nd, 2026**, sponsored by NEC. I confirm that I am an NEC member and that the applicant named above is my child and resides in my household.

If my child is selected as an NEC Youth Tour recipient, I grant NEC unrestricted permission to use their name and image in print, video, and digital media. I acknowledge that these images may be used for various purposes without further notice to me. By signing below, I attest that I fully understand all of the rules, eligibility and entry requirements of this contest and what will be required of me and I agree to permit NEC to review this application.

Applicant Signature: _____ Date: _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ Date: _____