

Ozark Electric's 2017 Rural Electric Youth Tour delegates spend week visiting Wash- ington D.C.



(l-r) Ozark Electric Cooperative 2017 Youth Tour delegates Emily Geisendorfer, Marionville High School; and Alonso Rueda, Monett High School; visited Capitol Hill while in Washington D.C. in June.

June 2017

One-hundred and two high school students participated in Missouri's 54th annual Missouri Electric Youth Tour to Washington, D.C., June 9-15. Local delegates were (*pictured above from left*): Emily Geisendorfer, Marionville High School, daughter of Maria Harter and Tom Geisendorfer; and Alonso Rueda, Monett High School, son of Emeterio & Alisa Rueda. They were sponsored by Ozark Electric Cooperative, Mt. Vernon.

The seven-day tour provides an action-filled week for high school students, offering them opportunities to learn firsthand what it is like to be involved in politics, leadership positions, community service and today's pressing issues.

"The Youth Tour is the highlight of the summer for many students and we're proud to send our best and brightest to Washington, D.C. this year to participate," said Mike Marsch, director of Member Services for the Association of Missouri Electric Cooperatives in Jefferson City.

Highlights included the young people visiting with representatives from their congressional districts and touring famous monuments, the Smithsonian Institution's museums and Arlington National Cemetery. The group also took a sightseeing and dance cruise on the Potomac River one evening with delegates from other states.

Other events of the week included participation in the Electric Youth Day, during which a special program coordinated by the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association brought together a record number of 1,800 Youth Tour delegates from across the United States. The delegates enjoyed featured speeches by government leaders and motivational speakers, such as Mike Schlappi, an inspiring four-time Paralympic medalist and two-time world wheelchair basketball champion.

Since 1964, the nation's cooperative electric utilities have sponsored more than 50,000 high school juniors and seniors for visits to their U.S. congressional delegations, energy and grassroots government education sessions and sightseeing in Washington. For more information about Ozark Electric's Rural Electric Youth Tour program, please contact Linda Stander at 417-466-2317 or lstander@ozarkelectric.com.

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