

Ozark Electric 's CYCLE delegates learn leadership in a fun, fast, and friendly way!



(l-r) Ozark Electric Cooperative 2017 CYCLE delegates Andi Montgomery, Everton High School; and Emily Chance, Sarcoxie High School, pose inside the Missouri State Capitol Building in July.

July 2017

Andi Montgomery, Everton High School, daughter of Darrell & Charla Montgomery; and Emily Chance, Sarcoxie High School, daughter of Steve & Jody Chance; were among the 109 high school students from across Missouri who participated in the Missouri Electric Cooperative CYCLE (Cooperative Youth Conference and Leadership Experience) program. The conference was held July 12-14, 2017, in Jefferson City. They were sponsored by Ozark Electric Cooperative, Mt. Vernon. Andi & Emily were chosen to attend the CYCLE program by placing 3rd- and 4th-runners up in Ozark Electric's annual Rural Electric Youth Tour essay contest.

Each year in July, an action-filled three days at the CYCLE program provides high school students opportunities to learn first-hand what it is like to be involved in politics, the cooperative form of business and being a leader. The program included nationally known speakers and a day at the Missouri State Capitol learning how a bill goes through the process to become a law. To learn more about electric cooperatives, the group was divided up into teams that competed in various events like the "build a cooperative" game.

Another highlight was hearing from the Rachel's Challenge Organization. Rachel Scott was the first student killed in the Columbine High School tragedy on April 20, 1999. Today, her family and friends speak to youth around the world about Rachel's legacy of being a positive role model to everyone she met in life.

The CYCLE program is in its 14th year and is a recipient of the National Community Youth Service award for the top youth program among all electric cooperatives in the country. Ozark Electric Cooperative has sponsored delegates for all 14 years. For more information, about Ozark Electric Cooperative's Youth Tour and CYCLE programs, please contact Linda Stander at 417-466-2317 or lstander@ozarkelectric.com

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