

HIGH SCHOOL JUNIORS, You could win a trip to your nation's capital!

Each year, starting in February, C & L Electric Cooperative begins taking applications for the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour to Washington, D.C., which takes place each June. We spread the word through *Arkansas Living* magazine and in the schools. And best of all, Youth Tour alumni tell their friends about this amazing opportunity.

Arkansas' electric cooperatives began sponsoring the tour in 1990. Since then, hundreds of young Arkansans have gone on this trip and been inspired by the sites they see. They learn about the sacrifices others have made and what it truly means to be an American. They walk on the grounds where George Washington walked. They walk the halls of the U.S. Capitol where the nation's laws are crafted. They make new friends and dream new dreams.

Many students believe it will be too hard to win this trip, or that it will take too much effort to write an essay or sit for an interview. Some are encouraged to apply by their teachers while others learn about it from their parents or grandparents who see the promotion in this magazine. Many say they almost didn't try. But ask any past Youth Tour winner and they will inevitably say they are glad they applied. It truly is a trip of a lifetime.



Youth Tour delegates visited the U.S. Capitol and met with members of the Arkansas congressional delegation in 2019.

During the tour, the group visits historic sites, such as Mount Vernon, the World War II Memorial, the U.S. Capitol, the Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial, the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, the various museums of the Smithsonian Institution and Arlington National Cemetery, among other sites.

The Arkansas group also meets students from other states who are visiting Washington as part of the tour. Electric cooperatives from these states sponsor students just as we do. In addition, one student will be selected from each state to serve on the Youth Leadership Council (YLC) of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA), which represents electric cooperatives across the nation and coordinates the Youth Tour.

By sponsoring the Youth Tour, C & L Electric Cooperative is providing opportunities to help our youth grow and learn. By doing this, we are working to fulfill one of the "Seven Cooperative Principles" that guide our member-owned business – commitment to community. Just as we help build the state by providing affordable and reliable energy, we are working to help build leaders for tomorrow. And we believe that is a very good commitment and investment to make.

COVID-19 safety precautions will be in place. Youth Tour will follow pandemic travel guidelines set by the airlines, Washington, D.C., and Virginia.



The Lincoln Memorial is a popular destination for Youth Tour delegates.

A trip of a lifetime

THE 2022 ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE YOUTH TOUR

An all-expenses-paid tour of the nation's capital awaits high school juniors from Arkansas this summer!

If you apply for the 2022 Electric Cooperative Youth Tour, you might be chosen for the week-long trip to Washington, D.C. The trip, which is sponsored by the Electric Cooperatives of Arkansas, includes tours of major sites in Washington, such as the U.S. Capitol, the museums of the Smithsonian Institution and the Jefferson, Lincoln, Martin Luther King Jr., Vietnam, Korean and World War II memorials.

This spring, C & L Electric Cooperative will select two high school juniors to attend the 2022 tour, which is set for June 17-23. The winners will be selected through an essay contest. Applicants must be high school juniors, and their parents/guardians must be members of C & L Electric Cooperative.

The Arkansas group will travel to Washington and return to Little Rock by air. Once in Washington, the students will join students from across the nation who are attending the tour thanks to their local electric co-ops.

Why do we do this? The answer is simple. C & L Electric Cooperative is committed to our members and to the communities we serve. Through the Youth Tour, we are helping Arkansas' youth learn more about the workings of their nation's government and the electric cooperatives, as well as develop leadership skills.

For more information, contact: Karen Rauls at 870-628-4221 ext. 104 or email Krauls@clelectric.com.

The deadline for entries is March 18, 2022.

Don't miss out on this incredible, life-changing opportunity. It's a trip of a lifetime!



my co-op



GERI MILLER

Space heaters are not best solution to heat your home

Small space heaters are meant to do exactly as their name says: Heat a small space. But unfortunately, many people use portable space heaters to heat their entire home — a practice that increases electric bills and poses safety risks.

Space heaters are not a practical solution to compensate for problems in your home, like inadequate insulation, drafty windows and exterior doors or an inefficient heating system. Your best bet is to improve the overall efficiency of your home. If you're on a tight budget, caulking and weatherstripping around windows and exterior doors are low-cost, easy ways to save energy. Depending on the size of your home, adding insulation can be a great next step. Taking these proactive energy-saving measures, rather than relying on space heaters for supplemental warmth, can reduce your heating bills for years to come.

The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission estimates more than 25,000 residential fires are associated with the use of space heaters each year, resulting in more than 300 deaths. If you use a space heater, purchase a model that includes the most current safety features, and make sure it carries the Underwriter's Laboratory (UL) label. Choose a thermostatically controlled heater to avoid energy waste and overheating, and place the heater on a level surface away from foot traffic when in use. Always keep children and pets away from space heaters.

Consider alternative ways to stay warm like extra layers of clothing or UL-approved electric blankets. Avoid using electric blankets that show signs of wear, frayed electrical cords or damaged temperature controls. If you have hardwood or tile floors, use area rugs to provide additional insulation and maintain warmth.

For more ways to save energy and increase comfort in your home, visit [energy.gov/energysaver](https://www.energy.gov/energysaver).

Tips to ditch space heaters

Space heaters are energy hogs, and older models can be extremely dangerous. This winter, ditch the space heater, and try these alternative solutions to stay warm.



- Wear extra layers of clothing.
- Use UL-approved electric blankets that are in good condition, without frayed electrical cords or damaged temperature controls.
- Caulk and weatherstrip around windows and doors to prevent heat loss.
- Add insulation to your attic around ductwork.
- Use area rugs on hardwood or tile floors.

Generator Safety Tips

- Never use a generator in enclosed spaces. Always use in well-ventilated areas.
- Even if the garage door is open, never use a generator in a garage.
- Keep generators out of the elements. Run generators on a dry surface under a canopy-like structure, but not on a carport.
- Never plug generators into a wall outlet. This can be deadly to you, family members or utility workers.
- Use a properly rated cord to plug appliances into a generator.
- Use carbon monoxide testers when using a generator.
- Make sure your generator is well-maintained and in good working order.

[Learn more at safeelectricity.org](https://www.safeelectricity.org)