



**RURAL ELECTRIC YOUTH TOUR – Washington, D.C.**  
**2024 Application**  
*Sponsored by Freeborn Mower Electric Cooperative*

First Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

School Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Current Grade Level: 11<sup>th</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ 12<sup>th</sup> \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Names: \_\_\_\_\_

FMEC Account #: \_\_\_\_\_

How did you hear about the Washington, D.C. Youth Tour opportunity?

\_\_\_\_\_

Please list your current activities, sports, hobbies, and community activities:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

What is one interesting thing you learned from our website: [www.fmec.coop](http://www.fmec.coop)

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Completed application, letter of recommendation, photo & essay response  
are due to Freeborn Mower Electric Cooperative's office  
By 3:30 p.m., Friday, February 9, 2024, to be considered.**

**Tour Dates: June 18 through 23, 2024**

**Eligibility Requirements:**

- Applicant must be a junior or senior in high school and reside in the FMEC service territory.
- Must be the child or dependent of an FMEC member.
- Must be available for an interview on Monday, March 11, 2024 (beginning at 3:30 p.m.) if chosen to advance. Interviews will be held at Freeborn Mower Electric Cooperative.
- Must be available for the National Rural Electric Youth Tour to Washington, D.C., June 18 through June 23, 2024.
- The awarded delegate must agree to present it to the FMEC Board of Directors upon return from the trip.

**Application Submission:**

- Application form may be submitted via webform at [www.fmec.coop](http://www.fmec.coop) by clicking the “Community” tab – Youth Tour. You may download the printable version and submit it to Lori Jimenez at [lori.jimenez@fmec.coop](mailto:lori.jimenez@fmec.coop) or drop it off at our office.
- **Applications are due in our office by 3:30 p.m. on Friday, February 9, 2024.**
- Be sure to include the following with your application submission:
  - A letter of recommendation from a teacher, coach, or youth organization leader.
  - A high-resolution photo in headshot/portrait format. The photo will be publicized in announcements and will not affect the application process. Your submission of this photo constitutes your and your parent(s)/guardian(s) permission to use the photo in announcements or other promotional materials.
  - A YouTube video link or essay response to the essay question (s). Multiple applicants cannot submit the same video. The video must be your original creation.
    - If using YouTube, please set privacy to ‘unlisted’ and email the link.

I understand that if I am selected:

- I agree to be available for the NRECA Youth Tour in Washington, D.C., June 18 – 23, 2024, and attend an FMEC Board Meeting in June or July to recap the tour to our directors.
- I agree to attend the Monday, March 11, 2024, interview.  
For some unforeseen reason, I cannot fulfill my obligation; I must notify Freeborn Mower Electric Cooperative immediately to consider an alternative.
- I agree to allow FMEC to publish my name and/or photographs in their newsletter, on the website, on social media, etc.

**Parent/Guardian Consent:** I/we hereby give my/our dependent high school junior or senior permission to enter the Rural Electric Youth Tour to Washington, D.C., contest. I/we understand that if he/she wins, I/we will be responsible for providing his/her own transportation to and from the Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport. By signing this form, we agree that the below-named student is making a commitment and is obligated to attend the Youth Tour.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Applicant’s Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Guardian/Custodial Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

# Youth Tour Essay Questions

Please respond to both questions with a video upload of approximately 3-4 minutes, or a typed essay of a total of around 500 words.

**Be unique, be creative, be yourself, and have fun!**

1. *While in the nation's capital on the Youth Tour, you will have an opportunity for a group visit with Congressional Representatives. If allowed to talk about a reliable, clean energy future, what key points would you focus your comments on?*
2. *Freeborn Mower Electric Cooperative has seven core values: Integrity, Safety, Quality, Engagement, Teamwork, Community, and Service. What are your core values, and why are they important to you?*

## **Selection:**

- All applicants who meet the eligibility requirements will be considered.
- **Preliminary Selection** – A judging committee will select up to five (5) applicants to advance to the interview process.
- **Final Selection** – The final judging will be in the form of an interview process. (March 11, beginning at 3:30 p.m.) Two applicants will be awarded the Youth Tour Experience, and two applicants will be selected for alternates.
- **Notification** - All applicants will be notified of the outcome, as timely as possible.

## **APPLICATION CHECKLIST**

- Currently a junior or senior in high school
- Must reside in FMEC territory
- Completed application form (Pages 1 & 2)
- Completed essay questions (video or typed)
- Photo of yourself
- Letter of recommendation
- If selected, able to attend the interview process – March 11<sup>th</sup>

## **RETURN TO:**

Freeborn Mower Electric Cooperative  
PO Box 611 | 3366 Bridge Avenue  
Albert Lea, MN 56007  
Attn: Lori Jimenez  
[lori.jimenez@fmec.coop](mailto:lori.jimenez@fmec.coop)

(507) 373-6421