

COOPERATIVE UNIVERSITY

Cooperative University will be held at Copiah-Lincoln Community College in Natchez on Nov. 13, beginning at 8:30 a.m. It is a one-day event where each school will be represented by at least one student. A counselor or teacher from each school is invited to attend, but will not be allowed in the interview the following day.

Each student is expected to attend the all-day event in its entirety. The day will consist of speakers, games and lunch. Students should wear long pants or jeans and closed-toe shoes with solid soles. T-shirts will be provided.

Cooperative University will teach students about Southwest Electric and what it means to be a Member. They will learn how their electric cooperative began, and what a cooperative business is today. The students will learn facts about Southwest Electric, how electricity is produced, the youth leadership program and much more.

A representative from the statewide office will explain the Youth Leadership Program and answer students' questions. This will allow students to see what they will experience if selected to attend the Workshop held in Jackson, Miss., and the Youth Tour trip to Washington, D.C.

A speaker from Cooperative Energy will explain how electricity is generated and the different types of fuel used to produce electricity. Also, Mississippi legislators have been invited to participate in a panel discussion, explaining how state government works, their role in it, and their personal and political career backgrounds.

After lunch, the students will meet a lineman. They will be able to hold the tools a lineman uses, see a bucket truck in action, watch a lineman climb a pole, see the inside of a transformer and much more.

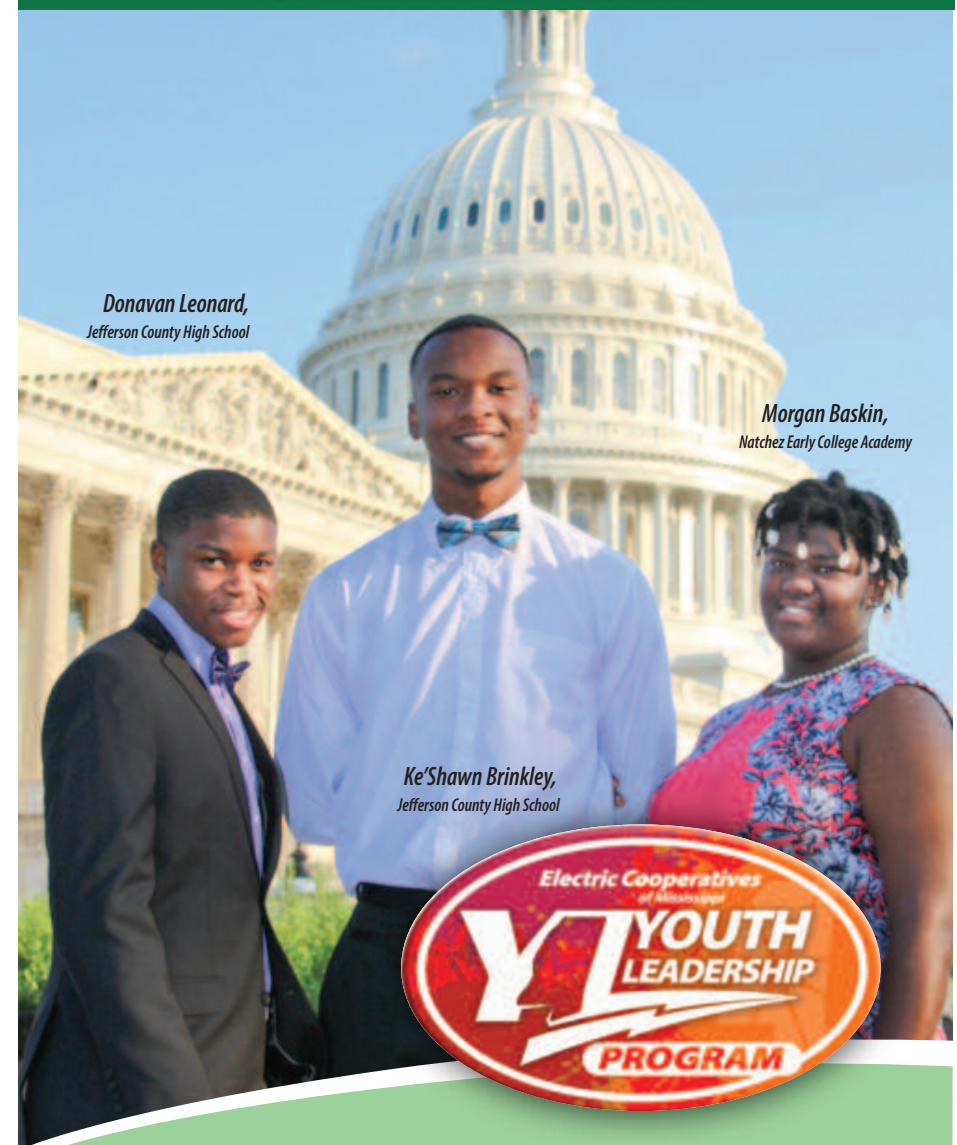
The students will be observed by out-of-town judges throughout Cooperative University. The judges will be watching how the students interact with each other, the attention they give the speakers, their ability to listen and follow instructions and more.

YOUTH LEADERSHIP INTERVIEWS

A smaller group of students will be selected to return on Nov. 14 to be interviewed by a panel of out-of-town judges. The panel will interview each student one at a time getting to know them, asking them about their future plans and learning about their involvement in community and school activities. We ask students to dress as if they were going to a job interview.

Based on the students' participation and interview, the judges will choose two or three students to represent Southwest Electric at the Youth Leadership Workshop in Jackson, Miss., Feb. 21-23, 2018, and the Youth Tour of Washington, D.C., June 9-15, 2018. Students will be under adult supervision at all times.

YOUTH LEADERSHIP PROGRAM



*Donavan Leonard,
Jefferson County High School*

*Morgan Baskin,
Natchez Early College Academy*

*Ke'Shawn Brinkley,
Jefferson County High School*



Leadership Workshop
in Jackson, Mississippi
Educational Tour
of Washington, D.C.

www.southwestepa.com

Southwest Electric, in an effort to better acquaint the future leaders of our communities with the cooperative philosophy, is participating with other Mississippi electric cooperatives in a statewide youth leadership program. Our Youth Leadership Program is designed to provide participants with an opportunity to learn about rural electrification, how and why cooperatives operate, and how electricity is distributed, in addition to sharpening their leadership skills.

CRITERIA FOR SELECTION

The program is open to junior class members in high schools within Southwest Electric's service area. Each high school will select up to three representatives to participate in Southwest Electric's Cooperative University.

The students must be able to attend the following:

- Cooperative University at Copiah-Lincoln Community College in Natchez, Miss., Nov. 13-14, 2017.
- Youth Leadership Workshop in Jackson, Miss., Feb. 21-23, 2018.
- Washington, D.C., Youth Tour June 9-15, 2018.
- Annual Membership Meeting, to be announced.

Criteria for selection includes:

- Parents or guardians with whom students reside must be a Southwest Electric Member.
- The students must have, at present, a B-grade point average in general subjects of study or advanced studies including English, science, geography and mathematics.
- The students must be involved in extra-curricular activities sponsored by the school. The student must be active in youth leadership organizations.
- The students must possess the following characteristics:
 - Active in church, civic or community activities
 - Outstanding citizen respected by fellow classmates
 - Solid school attendance record
 - Outgoing personality

The students chosen to represent Southwest Electric will be involved in a statewide selection process in which one student will be selected to represent Mississippi on the National Youth Leadership Consulting Board. The chosen student will be required to represent Mississippi at various meetings.

WHAT WILL STUDENTS LEARN THROUGH THE YOUTH LEADERSHIP PROGRAM?

Skills that will enable participants to become a leader in their schools, homes and communities

It is our goal to provide students with the proper tools and encouragement that will help them become student leaders today. These leaders are strong supporters of youth in the community and have proven themselves in all areas of leadership. In the past, motivational presentations have been given by the Governor and the Lt. Governor.

The internal workings of our state and federal government lawmaking bodies

Students will have the opportunity to meet with their state senator and representative in Jackson and their congressional delegation in Washington. They will also hear special presentations from government leaders.

The utility business and the cooperative manner in which Southwest Electric operates

Why were rural electric cooperatives organized? What impact have rural electric cooperatives had in the development of rural Mississippi? What is a cooperative, and what does it mean to the student? What purpose do cooperatives serve? How is an investor-owned corporation different from a cooperative? How does electricity flow from the generation facility to your house? These are just a few of the questions that will be answered.

