

Youth Leadership Award

One student is selected each year to represent Mississippi on the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) Youth Leadership Council. The selection is made at the Youth Leadership Workshop through a comprehensive process that includes personal interviews.

At the 2018 Youth Leadership Workshop, Wallace Bass was selected by judges to represent Mississippi on NRECA's National Youth Leadership Council. Later, he attended NRECA's Youth Leadership Conference and spoke at the Electric Cooperatives of Mississippi statewide annual meeting in Biloxi. He will also attend the NRECA annual meeting, which will be held Mar. 9-13, 2019, in Orlando, Fla. Wallace, a senior at Leake County High School, was sponsored by Central Electric Power Association, based in Carthage.



Wallace Bass

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The student chosen will serve a one-year term and participate in the 2019 annual meeting of the Electric Cooperatives of Mississippi, to be held Sept. 10, in Biloxi, and the annual meeting of NRECA, to be held Feb. 29-Mar. 4, 2020, in New Orleans, La. This distinguished honor provides many other opportunities. Some past winners have served as summer staff mem-

bers for Mississippi congressmen; others have worked for NRECA in Washington as a part-time summer employee. The student chosen will also receive a \$1,000 cash scholarship. There will also be two additional \$500 cash scholarships awarded in this contest. This honor is well worth the effort to participate.

Cost

Students' expenses are funded entirely by Southwest Electric. There are no hidden costs; Southwest Electric pays for all travel, lodging, meals, educational materials and admission fees. Our support of the program demonstrates a commitment to our young Members and a desire to provide an effective, high-quality leadership program to help prepare them for life's challenges.

How to Get Involved

Deb McGee, Southwest Electric's Youth Leadership Coordinator, will contact an official of each school located in its service area and provide program details. If desired, a detailed presentation can be presented to members of the junior class. In the meantime, if you have immediate questions, contact Deb at dmcgee@swepa.coop.



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"This program is very beneficial in helping us to grow in leadership skills and develop friendships that will last much longer than just one week. Partaking in this program has been a great honor."

– Nicholas Lambert, Wesson



ELECTRIC COOPERATIVES OF MISSISSIPPI

Youth Leadership PROGRAM



The 2018 participants with Rep. Gregg Harper.



- Youth Leadership Workshop
- Washington, D.C., Youth Tour



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"I was able to learn information important for me to know as an American. I also made many new friends, and made some life-long best friends."

– Damira McGruder, Natchez

SEE PHOTOS

FROM THE 2018 TOUR AT www.ecm.coop



Southwest Electric, in an effort to better acquaint the future leaders of our communities with the cooperative philosophy, participates with other electric cooperatives in Mississippi in an annual Youth Leadership Program designed for high school juniors.

Program Goals

Now in its 33rd year, the Electric Cooperatives of Mississippi Youth Leadership Program is an enjoyable educational experience that makes a lasting impact on participants.

The program seeks to:

- help students develop the confidence and ability to become better leaders in their schools and communities;
- stimulate their interest in governmental affairs and encourage their participation in the democratic process;
- inform them about their electric cooperative, the cooperative form of business and the distribution of electricity;
- foster interaction among students from communities throughout Mississippi and the nation.

"This trip was an opportunity of a life-time. I would like to thank everyone who made this trip possible. Most of all, the Lord. For without him, we could do nothing."

– Noah Lambert, Wesson



High school juniors selected to participate in the program attend the three-day Youth Leadership Workshop in Jackson. The workshop focuses on developing the leadership skills of students who have demonstrated a desire to be a leader among their peers. Participants possess talents that make them natural leaders; our program enhances these talents and helps students develop advanced

skills to prepare for leadership roles.

Students are selected for participation through various forms of intense competition conducted by their local electric cooperative. More than 1,000 young people were involved in the 2017-2018 program selection process.



Students work together to solve problems during a team-building exercise at the 2018 Youth Leadership Workshop.

Youth Leadership Workshop

Students will attend the Youth Leadership Workshop in Jackson, Feb. 27-Mar. 1, 2019, where they will study the finer aspects of leadership, watch state government in action and hear presentations from government leaders, business leaders and electric cooperative professionals.

Educational workshop sessions provide information about the electric utility

industry and the electric cooperative network that serves more than 1.8 million Mississippians.

The workshop also features a breakfast with students' respective state senator and representative, a visit to the Capitol and a Leadership Luncheon.

At the 2018 workshop, students heard presentations from Gov. Phil Bryant and Lt. Gov. Tate Reeves, as well as motivational speakers, and discussed issues in a mock town hall meeting. By participating in a fun team-building exercise conducted by a team of professional instructors, students gained unique insight into the value of working with others to achieve common goals.



"Fun Time" at the workshop includes an ice cream social and photobooth time.

2019 Washington, D.C., Youth Tour

Each year Mississippi's student delegation joins more than 1,800 high school juniors from 42 states across the nation at the Youth Tour in Washington, D.C., where they learn about cooperatives and rural electrification from a national perspective.



Sightseeing in Washington, D.C., included a stop at the White House for these 2018 Youth Tour participants.

During the week-long trip, students visit significant monuments and memorials, the White House, the Smithsonian Institution and much more. They meet Mississippi's two senators and their respective representative at the U.S. Capitol. Students also tour the Newseum to learn about their First Amendment rights and witness the changing of the guard at Arlington National Cemetery's Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. The busy schedule also includes time for shopping and relaxation. An evening highlight is the sunset parade at the Marine Corps War Memorial and a dinner/dance, enjoyed with students from other states.

The Youth Tour is a wonderful sightseeing experience that also offers an opportunity for making new friends. Students meet others their age from across the country, often forming friendships that last long after the tour is over.



"This was a great experience. I met so many amazing, wonderful people. I am so thankful for this experience to have seen our nation's beautiful capital."

– Mallory Hinson, Natchez

Mississippi's 2019 Youth Tour student delegation will depart from airports in Memphis, Jackson and Gulfport on Saturday, June 15, 2019, and return on Friday, June 21, 2019.