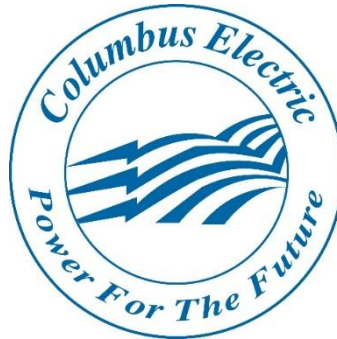


# 2026 Youth Tour Application



Once in a lifetime trip to Washington, D.C. on  
June 15-21, 2026



**Deadline to apply is January 15, 2026**

## Youth Tour Overview

Columbus Electric Cooperative, Inc. (CEC) and New Mexico Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NMRECA), are offering students from our service area a once in a lifetime opportunity to visit our nation's capital. Students will spend their time touring monuments, visiting museums, meeting with elected officials, learning about the cooperative business model, and getting to meet other young leaders from across New Mexico and numerous other states.

## Application Overview

Columbus Electric Cooperative will cover all expenses for the selected students to attend the Youth Tour. Each selected student will receive \$500 for spending money.

## Application Requirements

- ✓ Currently be in the 11<sup>th</sup> or 12<sup>th</sup> grade when submitting an application
- ✓ Must have a GPA of 3.0 or higher
- ✓ Be an immediate family member of an active CEC member.
- ✓ Be able to participate in the Youth Tour in Washington, D.C on June 15-21, 2026
- ✓ If selected, the student must attend a personal interview with a parent/guardian at a Columbus Electric Cooperative office
- ✓ If selected, the student and parent/guardian will be required to complete additional forms from the New Mexico Rural Electric Cooperative Youth Tour and attend a virtual meeting prior to the trip. *(A CEC employee will be available to assist with the additional forms and virtual meeting)*

## Selection Process

The selection committee appointed will review all completed applications blindly; all names, addresses, and any identifying information will be concealed.

## Application Checklist

- ☐ Completed Application
- ☐ Completed Essay
- ☐ Completed certification and parent permission form
- ☐ Letter of recommendation and character evaluation form from a teacher, counselor, or principal.

*Incomplete applications will not be considered.*

## Ways to submit your application

### Deliver to:

Deming office located at  
900 N. Gold  
Monday – Friday  
8:30 a.m.- 4:30 p.m.

### Mail to:

Columbus Electric Cooperative  
Youth Tour Program  
P.O. Box 631  
Deming, NM 88031

### Email to:

Leezondra Baca  
Administrative Assistant  
leezondrab@col-coop.com

## Application

How did you hear about the Youth Tour? \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_ Year in school \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email address \_\_\_\_\_

High School \_\_\_\_\_ High School Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Grade point average \_\_\_\_\_ If applicable, Weighted GPA \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Parent(s) or Guardian(s) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Parent or Guardian phone  
number \_\_\_\_\_

Parent or Guardian email  
address \_\_\_\_\_

Name on CEC Account \_\_\_\_\_ Active Account # \_\_\_\_\_

## Essay

Each applicant is required to complete an essay on one of the topics listed below. The essay should be no more than one page, font size 12, double spaced. Please include your name on the top right of the essay. Essay must be attached to application.

## Topic 1

Who is your favorite United States president, and why?

## Topic 2

What characteristics or qualities do you consider to be important in a leader?

## Activities

Please list all school activities in which you have participated in during high school.  
(Example: athletics, school clubs, school government, etc.)

[illegible]

## Community Involvement

Please list all non-paid community activities in which you have participated in during high school. (Example: volunteer efforts, church, community service etc.)

[illegible]

## Work Experience

Please list all work experience in chronological order, with your most recent job listed first.

Company	Position/Job Description	Dates of Employment	Avg. Hours Per Week

## Certification

In submitting this application, I verify that the information provided is complete and accurate to the best of my knowledge. I agree that the selection committee has my permission to verify any and all information. I understand that I must submit the completed application and any attachments by January 15, 2026.

I/We hereby give \_\_\_\_\_ permission to submit his/her name as a candidate for the Columbus Electric Cooperative Youth Tour contest, and if selected as a winner to give him/her permission to travel as required.

Signature of Applicant \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Parent/Guardian \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

## Character Evaluation and Recommendation Letter

*This form is to be completed by your teacher, counselor, or principal.*

Instructions for school official: Please complete and place this completed form and recommendation letter in a sealed envelope and return to the student so they can submit with their youth tour application.

Applicant's Name \_\_\_\_\_

High School \_\_\_\_\_

School Official's Name \_\_\_\_\_

School Official's Position \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

### Recommendation Letter

Instructions for school official: Please submit a recommendation letter on official letterhead describing the students' strengths and potential for future success. We welcome any information that would distinguish this student from others. Be sure to include in what capacity and how long you have known the student.

### Character Evaluation

Compared with other high school students, how would you rate this student in the following below?

	Average	Good	Very Good	Excellent (Top 5%)
Optimistic Attitude				
Willingness to take Responsibility				
Pride in School and Community				
Leadership Qualities				
Maturity				
Respect for Others				
Academic Achievement				
High Principles and Values				

Signature of Evaluator \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_