

# COLUMBUS<sup>®</sup> CURRENTS

## New Mexico Youth Tour Delegates Visit U.S. Capitol

High school students Kohan Evans and Journey Sheehan sponsored by CEC

SANTA FE, N.M. – Forty-two high school students from New Mexico participated in the 67th anniversary of National Rural Electric Cooperative Association's (NRECA) Youth Tour in Washington, D.C. June 17-23. Local delegates were Kohan Evans and Journey Sheehan. They were sponsored by Columbus Electric Cooperative (CEC).

The seven-day tour provided an action-filled trip for high school students, offering them opportunities to learn first-hand what it is like to be involved in politics, community service, and today's pressing issues. Highlights included special sessions on Capitol Hill with Cliff Ho, Legislative Fellow for U.S. Senator Martin Heinrich (D-N.M.); Todd Ringler, Senior Policy Advisor for Energy, Climate, and The Environment for Ben Ray Luján (D-N.M.); and Elizabeth Arvelo, Senior Advisor for U.S. Representative Teresa Leger Fernandez (D-N.M. – 3<sup>rd</sup> District).

"The Youth Tour students from New Mexico demonstrated a true passion for learning about democracy and government. They asked some tough questions on everything from renewable energy, fossil fuel production, climate change legislation, to the 30x30 campaign. It is great to see high school students eager to learn and gain leadership skills. Building strong leaders out of today's young people is essential to our nation's future," said Cliff Ho.

New Mexico's Youth Tour delegates toured famous monuments, memorials, the Smithsonian Institution's museums, and George Washington's Mount Vernon Estate. Angelica Barbaro, Haylie Bidegain, Kohan Evans, and Zephaniah Guerro participated in a formal ceremony at Arlington National Cemetery by dedicating and laying a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, in front of more than forty New Mexico Honor Flight heroes and their families. The group also attended the U.S. Marine Corps Sunset Parade one evening with delegates from other states.

Since 1964, NMREC has sponsored Youth Tour delegates for

visits to their U.S. congressional delegations, energy and grassroots government education sessions, and sightseeing in Washington, D.C. More than 55,000 high school juniors and seniors sponsored by the nation's electric cooperatives have participated in the Youth Tour since the educational leadership program began. Previous Youth Tour participants have become University Presidents, CEOs of Fortune 500 companies, and Members of Congress.

"New Mexico Rural Electric Cooperatives provided 42 students with the opportunity to represent the Land of Enchantment in Washington D.C. as participants in NRECA's Youth Tour. The chance to visit DC, tour the U.S. Capitol, and meet with elected officials can be transformative," said Charise Swanson, NMREC CEO. "There is no better place to gain an appreciation for all of our democratic institutions than in our nation's capital.

I truly believe this is a life changing event for our students and I know they will return home with innovative ideas for their futures and their communities."

For additional information and how to apply for a chance to participate in the 2025 Youth Tour, visit [www.columbusco-op.org/youth-tour](http://www.columbusco-op.org/youth-tour).



Pictured Above- Left- Journey Sheehan  
Right- Kohan Evans

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# COMMON CAUSES OF POWER OUTAGES

There is never a good time for the power to go out, but if it happens on a sunny day, you might be left wondering why. Here are the most common causes of a power outage.

## WEATHER

High winds, snow and ice can cause tree limbs to fall on power lines. Other weather effects, like wildfires and lightning strikes, can cause major damage to equipment.

## CRITTERS

Squirrels, birds, snakes and other animals can inadvertently contact power lines, causing short circuits and disruptions to electrical supply.

## ACCIDENTS

Vehicles can crash into utility poles, bringing down power lines. Construction and excavation work can also result in disruptions to underground lines.

## Scheduled MAINTENANCE

Occasionally, we plan outages to perform upgrades or repairs to parts of the local grid.



## Board Highlights

It was business as usual at the June meeting of the CEC Board of Trustees. Trustees reviewed and approved the operations and financial reports. They approved moving the July board meeting date to July 30<sup>th</sup> due to a conflict with another meeting being attended by management and staff.

## Attention Members

Don't forget CEC offers it members rebates on newly installed or purchased evaporative coolers, air conditioners, smart thermostats, induction cooktops, clothes dryers, rechargeable batteries, whole house fans, electric motors, outdoor power equipment and recycled refrigerators and freezers. To learn more about Columbus Electric Cooperative, Inc. rebate programs call us at 1-800-950-2667 or visit us online at [columbusco-op.org/rebates](http://columbusco-op.org/rebates)

## Congratulations Porter!

Porter Howard, an employee with Columbus Electric Coop, has successfully completed one of the world's most comprehensive training programs for power line personnel. The Merchant Job Training and Safety Program is administered to line personnel in more than 40 states throughout the United States.

Porter and the support staff at Columbus Electric Coop can be proud of their accomplishment. Each utility has an acting Training Coordinator assisting their Trainees by administering "closed book" testing. The coordinators manage their own people throughout the training process from rules set by the MJTS and the statewide association personnel. Congratulations to Porter Howard, who completed the program distinguished with honors. He can look forward to a very rewarding lifelong occupation.



Pictured Above- Left- Bryan Jackson- Operations Manager  
Middle- Porter Howard- Journeyman Lineman  
Right- Pete Sanchez- Line Foreman

## ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP OF THE MONTH

Electricity used to operate major appliances accounts for a significant portion of your home energy use.

Here's an easy way to lighten the load on your clothes dryer. Before you dry a load of damp clothing, toss in a clean, dry towel. The towel will absorb excess water, shortening the drying time. If your dryer does not include an autosense feature to determine drying time, remember to reduce the timer to about half of what you normally would. Remove the towel about 15 minutes after the cycle begins. Shorter drying times will extend the life of your dryer and save energy.

Source: [homesandgardens.com](http://homesandgardens.com)

Emergency Response Number  
1-800-228-0579

Toll - free Office Number  
1-800-950-COOP (2667)

[www.columbusco-op.org](http://www.columbusco-op.org)