

Local juniors tour Washington, D.C.

Amanda Tyler, from Brookland High School, and Grace Allan, a home-schooler from Jonesboro, were among 42 Arkansas high school students who toured Washington, D.C., in June as part of the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour to Washington.

The Youth Tour ambassadors are chosen by submitting an application and writing an essay. This year's essay subject was rural broadband and what it means to rural Arkansas.

Tyler and Allan, along with the rest of the Arkansas group, flew to the nation's capital on June 10 and returned to Arkansas on June 15. The trip, sponsored by Craighead Electric Cooperative and the state's 16 other electric distribution co-ops, included tours of major sites in Washington. They share their experience below:

It has always been a dream of mine to visit our nation's beautiful capital, and when I heard about the Youth Tour, I just knew I had to take the chance! I honestly felt a little overwhelmed when I saw that I had to write a paper about broadband internet connection because, at the time, I had no idea what that was or what it meant to people in rural communities. Luckily, my mom works for Ritter Communications and she knew exactly how to help me research the topic and what the paper needed to consist of. I felt a little uneasy when I submitted the paper, but I was keeping my hopes up. I was at work when I got the call that I had won the trip to Washington, D.C., I was ecstatic! I called my Mom as soon as I had found out, and she immediately started telling everyone. I looked at the itinerary that I was emailed that said exactly where we would be going throughout the trip. I was most excited for the Marine Corps museum and watching the Marine Corps Sunset Parade because I am planning on going into the service. Although I was excited, the events still exceeded my expectations, and I had such an amazing time! The most humbling experience was when we visited any of the war memorials. I never realized quite how many people were affected until I saw those names carved on the marble walls. While in Washington, D.C., I also made some amazing friends that I still talk to! Five of us have a group chat on Snapchat and we talk daily. The friends that I made there not only showed me kindness, but they also showed me just how incredibly amazing our future will be because of kids like us who have a passion to serve our country or just help anyone out in anyway we can. The Youth Tour meant so much to me, and I would not trade that experience for the world! I learned that "freedom is not free" and that, even if it's only in a small way, I need to find some way to make the world a better place. I want to say thank you to the co-op ... for this amazing opportunity that I will remember forever!

— Amanda Tyler



Amanda Tyler (left) and Grace Allan.

I have always heard about this cool opportunity from my brother since I was younger. He constantly would talk about the friends he made on this trip and the things he saw. When the opportunity arose for me to go, I was immediately on board. After writing the essay and receiving the news I had won, I was excited. Although nervous going into the trip knowing I knew no one who was going, I knew it would be fun. On Thursday when I arrived, I immediately made friends with my roommates. Throughout the week friendships would just happen, whether it be in my room, on an airplane or at a museum. Before this trip, I had visited D.C., but nothing was like Youth Tour. The information and opportunities we had were like none you could receive from a normal trip. Although sobering, the Holocaust museum was my favorite historic site. Seeing this museum for the first time was crazy and emotional. Ending the week, I came home with not only new experiences, but awesome friends. I'm thankful for Craighead Electric and all the co-ops for this opportunity to visit the nation's capital. I would definitely suggest the Arkansas Youth Tour to any student!

— Grace Allan

my co-op

NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING OF CRAIGHEAD ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE CORPORATION

Notice is hereby given that the Annual Membership Meeting of Craighead Electric Cooperative Corporation will be held on Friday, August 25, 2017 at the headquarters facility of the Cooperative at 4314 Stadium Blvd., Jonesboro, Craighead County, Arkansas beginning at 1:00 p.m. for the following purposes:

1. To pass on reports for the previous year.
2. To transact other business as may properly come before the meeting.

Len B. Nall, Secretary-Treasurer

This is a business session only. No attendance prizes will be awarded and there will be no entertainment.