



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE YOUTH TOUR

The electric cooperative Youth Tour is an amazing opportunity for high school juniors.

DETAILS

- > Each year, ECI REC sponsors two high school juniors on this all-expenses-paid trip to Washington, D.C.
- > Students visit historical sites, meet congressional leaders, and learn about American history and government.

APPLICATION DEADLINE

Last Wednesday of February

QUESTIONS?

Toll-free: 877-850-4343

Email: iowayouthtour@ecirec.coop

Electric Cooperative Youth Tour

For over 50 years, electric cooperatives have sponsored high school students from across America on a visit to the nation's capital during the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour.

A joint effort of local electric co-ops such as ECI REC, the Iowa Association of Electric Cooperatives (IAEC), and the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA), the Youth Tour sends around 30 Iowa students on this experience annually. Iowa students join around 1,500 others from around the country for a week of visiting historical sites, meeting congressional leaders, and learning about American history and government.

ECI REC selects two students to sponsor on this Youth Tour experience each year. Iowa juniors interested in attending Youth Tour who are not chosen by their cooperatives have another opportunity to earn the trip through the IAEC *Living With Energy in Iowa* magazine's essay contest; one winner is chosen for the expenses-paid experience each year. For more information and applications, see our Youth Tour brochure, or visit ecirec.coop and click on Youth Tour in the Community & Youth section.

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2019 Winners

Kaylee Kleitsch

- Wapsie Valley High School
- Parents: Richard and Brenda Kleitsch
- Honor roll student
- Participates in archery, Talented and Gifted Program (TAG), choir, musicals, and FFA
- Involved in 4-H, volunteering at the library, babysitting, house- and pet-sitting, and teaching Bible school
- Student ambassador and teacher's assistant



Jacob Ludeking

- Benton Community High School
- Parents: George and Theresa Ludeking
- Honor roll student
- Participates in speech, band, show choir, musicals, plays, and FFA
- Involved in 4-H and teaching at his church
- Iowa Ambassador of Music



2018 Winners

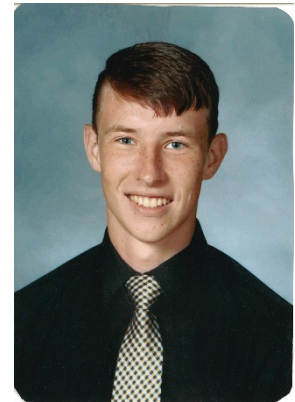
Sarah Collison

- East Buchanan High School
- Parents: Ronald and Pamela Collison
- National Honor Society member
- Participates in concert and jazz band, concert and chamber choir, large group speech, FFA, softball, basketball, volleyball, and golf
- Involved in 4-H, church youth group, and Lady Bucs Club volleyball
- Volunteers at the concession stands during the Rowley Days celebrations



Brock Ortner

- Vinton-Shellsburg High School
- Parents: Michael and Laurie Ann Ortner
- National Honor Society member
- Outstanding FFA Member for his grade
- Participates in five honor bands, jazz band, football, soccer, and FFA
- Involved in 4-H, church youth group, Operation Backpack, and annual bingo fundraiser for breast cancer awareness
- Operates a small herd of cattle



2017 Winners

Macy Arbuckle

- Homeschool
- Parents: Jim and Carol Arbuckle
- Recipient of Iowa Honey Producers Association scholarship; earned an entire hive setup
- Participates in yearly drama productions through Home-School Assistance Program and teaches guitar lessons
- Educated third-graders about bees at Benton County's Ag Day, volunteers at Ronald McDonald House, and is a member at Oak Grove Christian Church



Cade Shramek

- Prairie High School
- Parents: Don and Lora Shramek
- Percussion section leader; participates in marching band, chorale choir, and select men's choir
- Plays on Prairie soccer team and Premier Soccer Club of Eastern Iowa
- National Honor Society member and treasurer of Monroe Hustlers 4-H Club; is involved with St. Mary's Church in Oxford



2016 Winners

Kirstie Martin

- Independence High School
- Parents: Curt and Deb Martin
- Involved in band, golf, yearbook, basketball, TAG, and FFA
- Fight Like a Mustang member, Battle of the Books State Qualifier, and the junior class president
- Maintains an honor roll status, has come in first and second in the Iowa poetry contest, received a Spotlight on Education Award, and logged over 200 service hours for Silver Cord



Jamie Thompson

- Vinton-Shellsburg High School
- Parent: Julie Barnes of Palo
- Section leader in marching band, concert band, and jazz band
- Participates in speech competitions and in 2014 was inducted as an All-State Individual Speech Performer in the literary programs category
- Has been involved in JV/varsity volleyball, club volleyball, track, and choir
- Maintains a 4.0 GPA and is a member of the National Honor Society



2015 Winners

Zachary Fischels

- Independence High School
- Parents: Dan and Jane Fischels of Independence
- Participated in marching band, concert band, jazz band, and the tech team
- Carried a 4.0 GPA and is a member of St. John's Catholic Church



Bristian Gerber

- Vinton-Shellsburg High School
- Parents: Shawn and Tom Gerber of Vinton
- Participated in cross country, cheerleading, track, and the Voyagers dance team
- Volunteered for many different services and organizations, maintained an honor roll status, was a member of the National Honor Society, and is a member of St. Mary's Church



Morgan Weber (IAEC essay contest winner)

- Jesup High School
- Parents: Rachel and Chris Weber of Independence



2014 Winners

Caitlin Kruckenberg

- Vinton-Shellsburg High School
- Parents: Aaron and Becky Kruckenberg of Garrison
- Has participated in volleyball, club volleyball, basketball, soccer, Voyagers dance team, choir, chamber choir, student council, and jazz choir
- Earned academic letters, carries a 4.0 GPA, and is an NHS member
- A member of First Assembly of God and serves as a ministry team assistant in children's church
- Attended the Hugh O'Brian Youth (HOBY) Leadership Conference and volunteers for Project Linus, the Vinton Parks and Rec Department, and the Vinton Palace Theatre



Olivia Oltrogge

- Vinton-Shellsburg High School
- Parents: Pam and Al Oltrogge from Shellsburg
- Participated in soccer, cross country, and debate
- Participates in her church's youth group and has volunteered as a member of the cook-and-cleaning crew for summer camp and at her local food pantry



2013 Winners

Ben Hyland

- Vinton-Shellsburg High School
- Parents: Pat and Laurie Hyland from Vinton
- Enjoys sports and has participated in basketball, track, football, cross country, and baseball
- Is a Red-Cross-certified life guard, sang in choir and chamber choir, is a member of the National Honor Society, and attends St. Mary's Catholic Church



Rachel Wheelock

- Independence High School
- Parents: Todd and Teresa Wheelock from Rowley
- 4.0 GPA and active in concert, jazz, pep, and marching band
- Junior class vice president
- Runs track and varsity cross country
- Active in 4-H and Girl Scouts



2012 Winners

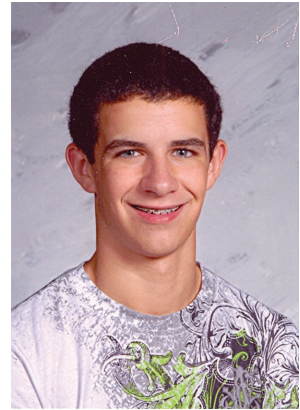
Parker Oltrogge

- Vinton-Shellsburg High School
- Parents: Allan and Pamela, Shellsburg area
- Active in show choir, track, band, cross country, and many other activities



Dalton Schmit

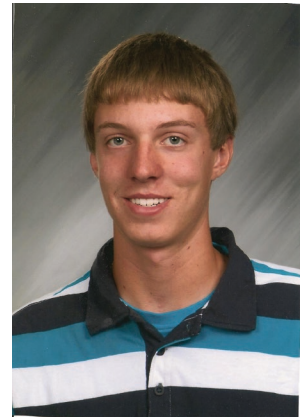
- Jesup High School
- Parents: Chris and Rachel Weber, Independence area
- Involved in track and baseball, a student of the month, received a 4.0 award, and served as class president
- Member of St. Athanasius High School youth group



2011 Winners

Logan Halverson

- Independence High School
- Parents: Julie Falcon and Tom Halverson, Independence
- Involved in speech, member of the concert band and concert choir, and tennis player
- 4.0 grade point average
- Member of the First United Methodist Church and Boy Scouts of America—where he received his Eagle Scout honor
- Working toward his private pilot's license at time of receipt of scholarship



Dustin Toale

- Independence High School
- Parents: Terry and Susie Toale, Independence
- Involved in tennis, swim team, IHS music, the Iowa Bar Association, and the student council (served as junior class representative)
- 4.0 grade point average
- Member of Saint John's Catholic Church, Lion's Club Leo Club for youth, and Boy Scouts of America—where he received his Eagle Scout award in 2009
- Worked as a public pool lifeguard, a public library assistant, and a maintenance assistant at Bank Iowa



2010 Winners

Connor Roth

- Belle Plaine High School
- Parents: Joe and Nancy Roth, Luzerne area
- Active in St. Michael's church youth group
- Active in track, band, music, and the Pep Club, and named student of the month several times
- Participated in the annual service-learning day



Nicole Thompson

- Vinton-Shellsburg High School
- Parents: Jeff and Julie Barns, Palo area
- Active in volleyball, softball, show choir, musicals, plays, and the Lutheran Youth Organization
- Named president of her class at Vinton-Shellsburg High School in 2010



2009 Winners

Cally Bengston

- Jesup High School
- Parents: Terry and Monica Bengston, Fairbank area



Lindsay Kelty

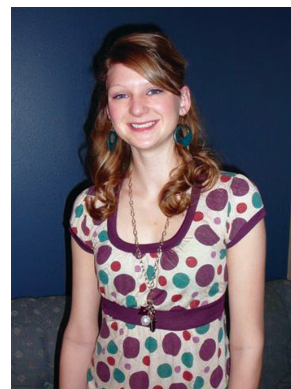
- Center Point-Urbana High School
- Parents: Shannon and Karie Kelty, Vinton/Urbana area



2008 Winners

Michelle Hunter

- Independence High School
- Parents: Dennis and Melinda Hunter, Brandon area
- Active in all phases of band, as well as tennis and large group speech
- Lettered in academics in 2006 and 2007 and maintained 4.0 GPA
- Helped with RAGBRAI, worked as a teller at Bank Iowa, and volunteered her services to many other organizations



Carly Kelty

- Center Point-Urbana High School
- Parents: Shannon and Karie Kelty, Vinton/Urbana area
- Involved in cross country, soccer, the school newspaper, Lean on Me, JEL, and Honor Society
- Junior class president, member of Future Community and Career Leaders of America, and the American Legion Auxiliary





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Hours

MONDAY-FRIDAY:

7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Closed Saturdays, Sundays, and holidays



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