

Local Teens Return From Trip to Capital

Youth Tour representatives Dalton Schmit of Jesup and Parker Oltoffe of Shellsburg participated in the 2012 Electric Cooperative Youth Tour program sponsored by East-Central Iowa REC this spring. They spent six days in Washington, D.C., with 28 peers from Iowa.

Each year in June, an action-filled week provides high school students opportunities to learn first-hand what it is like to be involved in politics, community service, and today's pressing issues in the energy industry. Students met their elected representatives in the U.S. House and Senate, saw historic sites, and met over 1,500 students from across the country who participated in their state's Youth Tour program.

The Electric Cooperative Youth Tour has been a joint effort of local electric co-ops, such as ECI REC, their statewide co-op associations, and the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA), based in Arlington, Virginia, for 48 years.

"The youth tour was so amazing," Schmit said. "It was really cool to meet my senator and representative, and learn about politics up-close. Plus, I made friends from nearly every state and experienced history first-hand. It really made me think about what it means to be an American, and shows that people my age do care about this country."

For more information on how you can participate in East-Central Iowa REC's Youth Tour program, contact ECI REC toll free 877-850-4343, or log onto ecirec.coop.



Parker Oltoffe (left) and Dalton Schmit attended the Youth Tour in Washington, D.C.