

## Cumberland Electric Membership Corporation

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#### Mission Statement

Cumberland Electric Membership Corporation is committed to providing dependable, affordable electric service through the expertise and dedication of competent leadership and a well-trained and responsive workforce.

## AS I SEE IT

Manager's Viewpoint

# Caring about youth is the cooperative way

In June, Cumberland Electric Membership Corporation sent 12 high school juniors to Washington, D.C., for the 52nd Annual Electric Cooperative Youth Tour. Students who experience Youth Tour have the opportunity to explore our nation's capital, make lasting friendships, compete for college scholarships, learn a bit about how our government operates and see the impact electric cooperatives have on the legislative process.

Youth Tour is one of the programs for which electric cooperatives across the country are best known. (Read more about Youth

Tour on pages 22-24.) But electric cooperatives go far beyond Youth Tour when it comes to making a difference in our young members' lives.

At CEMC, we are invested in youth education and engagement programs throughout our local community. Each year, CEMC awards 12 college scholarships to well-deserving graduating seniors across our service area. Every summer, we send sixth- and seventh-grade students to 4-H Electric Camp to learn electric safety as well as the science of electricity in general. Throughout the school year, CEMC provides electric safety demonstrations to students of all ages, participates in career days and sponsors spelling bees, math competitions and more.

And we're not the only ones getting involved. We are happy to be a part of the broader co-op community, which strives to provide young Americans with safety and educational programs during

the summer and throughout the year. Here's how some of them are getting young people involved:

Electric co-ops in several states, including Wyoming, Colorado, Kansas and Utah, run summer camps that teach kids about the cooperative business model. In fact, the kids get to create and run a co-op for the summer! They pay their dues (50 cents) to become a part of the co-op and proceed to handle co-op business — from voting on board members and choosing a general manager to setting prices and determining inventory for their chosen business.

Here in Tennessee, our co-ops are taking students to their state capital so they can see their state government at work. Students participating in the Youth Leadership Summit visit Nashville and meet their state legislators. They leave the program having learned about more than just their hometown cooperatives and Tennessee state government; they leave with practical experience, leadership skills and a desire to work hard for their future.

There are many great co-op programs out there that focus on youth education and engagement. But what all of these programs have in common, no matter how big or small, is the fact that electric cooperatives come together for a common cause to not only teach our youth about the cooperative difference but to give them opportunities to see and reach their potential.



*Jim Coode,  
General Manager,  
Cumberland  
Electric Membership  
Corporation*

# 2015 WYT delegates collect shoes for kids

By Stephanie Lobdell, CEMC community relations coordinator

One thing all Washington Youth Tour (WYT) winners have in common when they return home is sore feet! During their weeklong trip to D.C. this year, students took more than 123,000 steps — walking a whopping 61 miles! So when asked to come up with a group community service project, it was no surprise the 2015 WYT delegates decided to host a shoe drive.

The students engaged their communities, family and friends in their efforts and jointly collected more than 100 pairs of new, youth-sized athletic shoes. This was no ordinary shoe drive, though, as the students chose to donate the shoes to Ashland City Elementary, a local school in rural Cheatham County. Principal Chip Roney was overwhelmed by the generosity and excited about being able to distribute the shoes during the school's upcoming open house event.

That same excitement was shared by the students who gathered the shoes. "The amount of shoes we were able to collect will bring smiles to the faces of many children who otherwise might not get a new pair of school shoes this year," says Eli Creasy, a 2015 WYT alumnus.

Youth Tour participants often return to their hometowns as stronger leaders with confidence they can

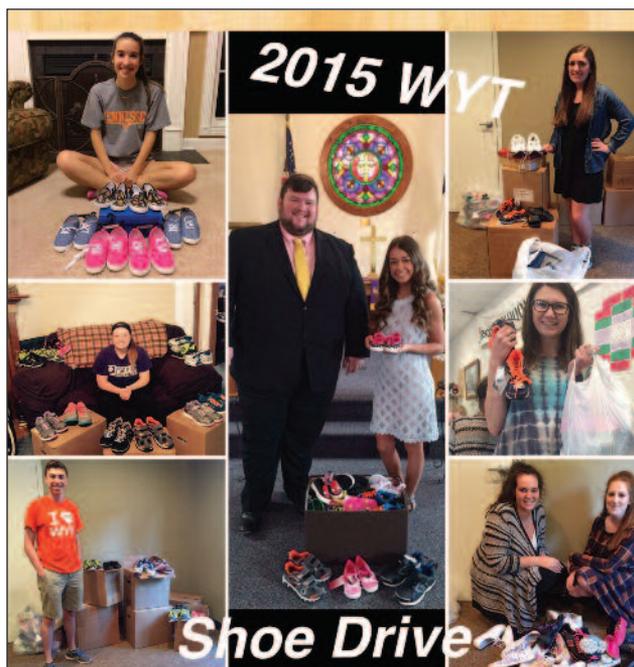


From left, Ashland City Elementary School counselor Joy Daniel, Lobdell, and ACES Principal Chip Roney — along with some help from a few ACES students — gather the shoes donated by Cumberland Electric Membership Corporation's 2015 Washington Youth Tour delegates.

make a difference. The 2015 WYT delegates exemplified this through their dedication to this community service project.

## Coming next month

Be sure to keep an eye out for next month's issue of *The Tennessee Magazine*! It will contain everything you need to know about Cumberland Electric Membership's 78th annual membership meeting. We hope you'll join us Saturday, Sept. 17, at White House Heritage High School in Robertson County for our cooperative's biggest event. Director elections will be held, a complimentary breakfast will be served, entertainment will be provided and some exciting door prizes will be given away. Mark your calendar for Sept. 17, and make plans to join us as we celebrate 78 years of serving you!



CEMC's 2015 Washington Youth Tour delegates collected more than 100 pairs of shoes that will benefit children in need at Ashland City Elementary.

# 2016 Washington Youth Tour



Nearly 140 high school seniors from across Tennessee have returned from a weeklong “experience of a lifetime” courtesy of their local electric cooperatives. Shelby Adcock, Cheatham County Central High School; Caroline Collins, Montgomery Central High School; Jaz Crook, Portland High School; Dalton Cunningham, Cheatham County Central High School; Erica Juriasignani, Stewart County High School; Grace Kuchenbecker, Montgomery Central High School; MaKayleigh Lackey, Stewart County High School; Thomas Littleton, Stewart County High School; Lucinda Shea, Greenbrier High School; Kayde Stroud, Jo Byrns High School; Estelle Turner, White House Heritage High School; and Carder Veneble, Portland High School, as well as Kathryn Van Mater, Cheatham County Central High School, were sponsored by Cumberland Electric Membership Corporation to participate in the 2016 Washington Youth Tour June 10-16.

The popular event included sightseeing, visits with elected officials and lots of fun meeting peers from across Tennessee and the nation. Delegates earned their spots on the Youth Tour for writing winning short stories titled “Electric Cooperatives: Powering Everyday Life.” In their winning entries, the talented young writers described how member-owned, nonprofit electric co-ops strengthen their local



At top, CEMC’s 2016 Washington Youth Tour delegates are, from left, MaKayleigh Lackey, Dalton Cunningham, Erica Juriasignani, Estelle Turner, Thomas Littleton, Shelby Adcock, Carder Veneble, Jaz Crook, Grace Kuchenbecker, Caroline Collins, Kayde Stroud and Lucinda Shea. Above, Youth Tour delegates visit the Franklin Delano Roosevelt Memorial.

communities and improve lives across their service areas while providing safe, reliable, affordable energy.

“We take great pride in rewarding the best and brightest from our service area,” said Stephanie Lobdell, CEMC community relations coordinator who, along with Member Services Assistant Susie Yonkers, was a chaperone on this year’s trip. “By recognizing



*CEMC's group poses for a fun photo in front of the Supreme Court building.*

their accomplishments through programs like the Washington Youth Tour, we show these leaders of tomorrow that their hometown electric co-op is more than a utility provider; CEMC is an active member of the community and fully invested in its prosperity.”

For more than 50 years, the Washington Youth Tour has taken students from electric co-op service areas to our nation’s capital to learn more about our country and the cooperative business model. The annual event is coordinated by CEMC, the Tennessee Electric Cooperative Association and National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA). This year’s Youth Tour involved 1,700 students from 43 states.

On their 2016 visit, Tennessee’s Youth Tour delegates saw the White House and memorials to past presidents Thomas Jefferson, Abraham Lincoln and Franklin Delano Roosevelt as well as monuments honoring the sacrifices of veterans of World War II and the Vietnam and Korean Wars. During visits to the museums of the Smithsonian Institution, the touring Tennesseans saw and experienced natural, historical and artistic treasures. Other fun stops included historic homes of former presidents — George Washington’s Mount Vernon and Jefferson’s Monticello — as well as Madame Tussauds Wax Museum, the Hard Rock Cafe and a boat cruise down the Potomac River. Among other Youth



*Delegates stop at Thomas Jefferson’s Monticello to tour the home of our nation’s third president and author of the Declaration of Independence.*

Tour highlights were a solemn and sobering visit to Arlington National Cemetery where the group laid a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknowns and a stirring Sunset Parade performance by the U.S. Marine Drum and Bugle Corps and Marine Corps Silent Drill Platoon.

The group was welcomed to the U.S. Capitol by Sens. Lamar Alexander and Bob Corker, and Reps. Diane Black and Marsha Blackburn

spent time with their young constituents from CEMC, posing for photos and answering their questions.

“Our commitment to community is what sets cooperatives apart from other businesses,” said CEMC General Manager Jim Coode. “The Washington Youth Tour is one way we show the youth of our service area that CEMC is more than their electricity provider. We genuinely care about the prosperity of our communities, and that includes providing special opportunities for these exceptional students and preparing them for future success.”

Entry details for the 2017 Washington Youth Tour will be distributed to high schools within CEMC’s service area this fall.

Information can also be found in the January 2017 issue of *The Tennessee Magazine* and on CEMC’s website, [www.cemc.org](http://www.cemc.org).

For an idea of what this contest is all about, read CEMC’s top 2016 short story written by MaKayleigh Lackey, currently a senior at Stewart County High School, on page 24.

*ON THE COVER — Standing on the grounds of the U.S. Capitol are CEMC’s 2016 Washington Youth Tour representatives. From left are Susie Yonkers, Estelle Turner, Caroline Collins, Grace Kuchenbecker, Kayde Stroud, Thomas Littleton, MaKayleigh Lackey, Carder Veneble, Shelby Adcock, Dalton Cunningham, Lucinda Shea, Kathryn Van Mater, Jaz Crook, Erica Juriasignani and Stephanie Lobdell.*

# Electric Cooperatives: Powering Everyday Life

By MaKayleigh Lackey, Stewart County High School



“Isn’t it splendid, Wilbur?” Charlotte asked in awe. The barn was shining radiantly, covered in twinkling yellow lights. They cast off a warm glow that warmed all of the visitors’ hearts. These visitors milled around the barnyard, visiting with the other animals and gazing admirably at Wilbur. Exhausted,

Wilbur lay down in the warm straw underneath Charlotte’s web, which today said, “Some Pig.” “Oh, Charlotte! Thank you for everything you have done for me. All of these people came just to see your web!” Wilbur’s chocolate-brown eyes glistened with tears of happiness. Charlotte pondered his claim for a moment; her years of life had made her wise enough to know this wasn’t just her doing.

“I can’t take all of the credit. Honestly, this couldn’t have been done without our local electric co-op.” Raising his eyes quizzically, Wilbur began racking his brain for how the co-op could possibly be responsible for this marvelous night at his beloved home. Defeated, he finally responded.

“OK, I know that the local electric co-op does a lot for our community. But I just can’t figure out how it could be responsible for tonight!” Charlotte’s gossamer body settled into the alabaster folds of her web.

“Well, back in the early 1930s, power companies found it unprofitable to build power lines out into rural communities. This forced families who lived and worked in rural areas to rely specifically on agriculture as their source of income. In addition, this caused traffic in these areas to become very few and far between.” Wilbur’s eyes widened with fear.

“So that means ...” His sentence trailed off in the somber realization of what this would have meant for him. “That means Farmer Homer wouldn’t have had enough money to keep me. And, if he did, these visitors wouldn’t have traveled out to see us!” Charlotte nodded her sable head, making the glistening web bounce.

“Can you think of anything else that the local electric co-op could be responsible for?” Charlotte asked Wilbur with a hint of a smile in her voice. Wilbur rose and shook the straw off of himself and walked to the edge of the barn, gazing out into the night scene. The visitors who had grown to love Charlotte and Wilbur were still milling around the barnyard, drinking fresh lemonade. He redirected his gaze to the frosted farm house in the distance, where he could see more multitudes of people pass by the large windows. Their silhouettes, darkened by the light behind them, cruised from room to room. Wilbur turned his eyes upward to the yellow lantern lights that

were strung along the roof of the rustic barn. They reminded him of ships bobbing in the current. The corners of Charlotte’s mouth turned up into a smile as Wilbur gasped in excitement.

“I know!” he exclaimed. “The lights, of course!”

“You’re right, Wilbur!” Charlotte shifted her body, causing droplets of late-night dew to be thrown to the ground below. They hit the dirt of the barn floor and were quickly absorbed into the thirsty soil. “The local electric co-op doesn’t even do all this for profit. It is owned by the consumers it serves. This means the customers like us are always the priority.” Wilbur’s jaw was agape in amazement.

“Charlotte,” he pondered, “does the co-op teach us how to use energy more efficiently as well? I think it’s really important that Farmer Homer doesn’t have to pay a lot for his electricity. You know, so he can keep me here on the farm.”

Charlotte smiled. “Of course it does! These co-ops make it their duty to teach their consumers how to use energy as efficiently as possible. They have lots of programs put in place just for this reason! One example of these programs is the Energy Right Water Heater Program. This helps customers cut back on their water heater utility bill by providing a rebate for the installation of a new, more efficient water heater!” Charlotte finished this sentence with excitement oozing out of her voice. Wilbur couldn’t help but be excited, too; these local electric co-ops were great!

“Wow! I didn’t realize these co-ops did so much for us!” Wilbur’s brain was overflowing with new information.

“Well, I’m not finished yet,” Charlotte responded curtly. Wilbur’s salmon ears perked up. “The local electric co-ops also make community service another of their priorities. They sponsor lots of activities for the youth in their service zones. Some examples are the Washington Youth Tour, Electric Camp and local school safety programs.” Wilbur was shocked why these co-ops would do all of this for these people; he realized it was just because they wanted to help their communities. He was struck with an amazing idea.

“Hey, Charlotte, since the electric co-ops do so much for us, why don’t we do something for it?”

“I think that’s a great idea, Wilbur!” The pair quickly got to work brainstorming and creating their masterpiece. Charlotte and Wilbur, exhausted, finally went to sleep late into the cool summer night. The next morning, the residents of the Zuckerman Farm quickly began placing calls to every television and radio crew in the area. Charlotte had written something new in her web. Illuminated by the early-morning sunshine, covered in glistening drops of dew, was written: “Electric co-ops, our friend.”

# Student art featured in 2017 CEMC calendars



*East Region Overall Winner — Ellie Kastner  
Ninth grade, Merrol Hyde Magnet School*

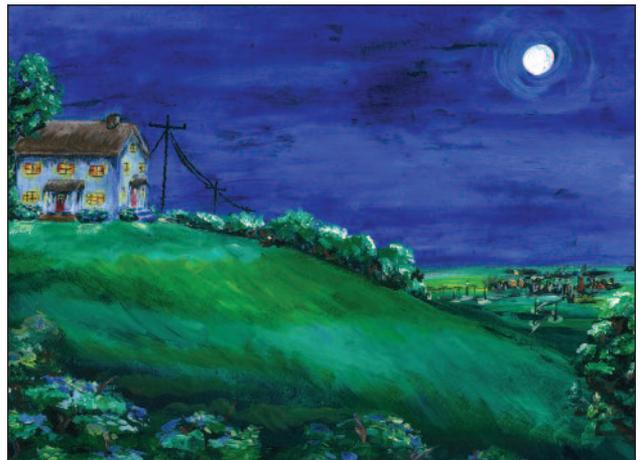


*West Region Overall Winner — Zoie Chan  
12th grade, Cheatham County Central High School*

Cumberland Electric Membership Corporation is proud to present winning artwork from its 2017 Calendar Art Contest. Students from CEMC's service area submitted hundreds of entries, each vying for a spot in this year's calendar.

Two different wall calendars, one representing the East Region and the other the West Region, as well as pocket calendars in five different designs will be available at your local CEMC business office beginning in November. Above are the overall winning entries for each region, and below and on the following page are the winning entries for the pocket calendars.

CEMC thanks the students who submitted artwork and the schools and teachers who encouraged participation. As always, we were amazed by the talented artists, and choosing the winners was no easy task!



*Maria Popescu — East Pocket  
12th grade, Merrol Hyde Magnet School*



*Rebecca White — East Pocket  
12th grade, Merrol Hyde Magnet School*



*Lucas Brizendine — West Pocket  
12th grade, Cheatham County Central High School*

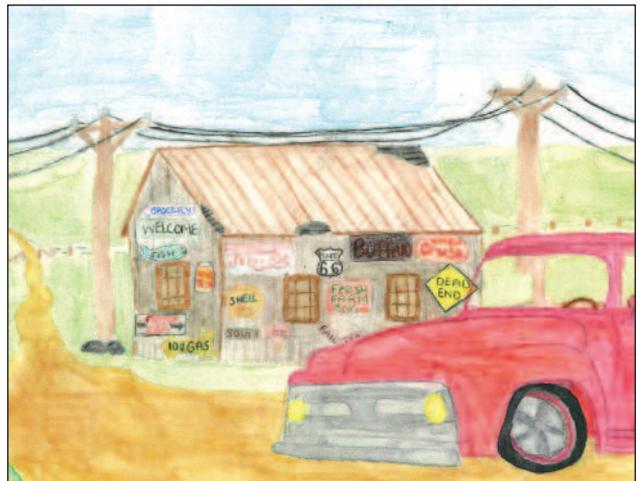
*Continued on page 26*

## 2017 CEMC calendars

Continued from page 25



Amie Edwards — West Pocket  
12th grade, Cheatham County Central High School



Caylee Weninger — West Pocket  
12th grade, Stewart County High School

## CEMC Linemen compete at 2016 Rodeo

Cumberland Electric Membership Corporation sent a group of expertly trained linemen to participate in the 19th Annual Tennessee Valley Lineman Rodeo June 10-11 at Paris Landing State Park in Paris, Tennessee.

Lineworkers who participate in the rodeo are required to compete in a series of tests, balancing skill with safety. Much of the rodeo takes place atop 40-foot-tall poles. For safety reasons, the lines are not energized, but competitors are judged as if every aspect is real. The lineworkers perform a variety of tasks scored by a team of well-qualified judges.

This year, CEMC employees — Portland District Apprentice Lineman Justin Bradley and Portland District Linemen Justin Short, John Vander Wielen and Matt Hunter — competed with lineworkers representing cooperatives and municipal utilities from across the Tennessee Valley.

CEMC linemen brought home two first-place awards this year. Short, Vander Wielen and Hunter claimed first place in the team Hurtman Rescue event, and Bradley finished first in the apprentice Hurtman Rescue competition.

Additionally, Construction Crew Working Foreman Mark Heathman, Springfield District Operations Supervisor Nicky Roberts, Transmission Engineer Kevin Cain and Safety Coordinator Chip Miller served as judges.

“Our lineworkers are among the best-trained, most dedicated and hardest-working people you will ever meet,” says Miller. “The rodeo gives them the chance to match their knowledge and skills against those of their peers.”



With John Vander Wielen on the ground, Matt Hunter, left, and Justin Short participate in a team event atop a pole at the 19th Annual Tennessee Valley Lineman Rodeo.