

## Youth Tour 2026

### Contest Guidelines

1. Applicants must be members of the 2025-26 Junior Class.
2. Applicants must attend a school located in Central's service area **or** their primary residence must be served by Central.
3. After a review of the applications, students will be selected for interviews. Two of those will be awarded an all-expense trip to Washington, D.C.
4. Applicants must be able to participate in an interview by appointment the week of February 2, 2026.
5. Applicants must be able to attend Youth Tour June 13 – 19, 2026.

### Application

1. Each applicant shall submit a completed application online at [www.mycentral.coop/youthtour](http://www.mycentral.coop/youthtour).
2. Entries must be submitted by Friday, January 16, 2026, at 5 p.m.
3. All applications become the property of Central Rural Electric Cooperative.
4. Please complete all questions thoughtfully. Answers should be concise but give judges a clear picture of your personality, leadership, and interest in this opportunity. Recommended length: 3–5 sentences per answer.

### Contest Judging

1. All applications will be reviewed by judges chosen by Central.
2. Students will be selected for interviews based on their application.
3. Judges will choose two winners based upon the following criteria:
  - 50% Written Application & Résumé
    - Résumé (15%) – Completeness, organization, and demonstration of activities/leadership.
    - Leadership & Community (25%) – Quality, thoughtfulness, and relevance of responses to cooperative values and leadership.
    - Short-Answer: Fun & Creative (10%) – Originality, creativity, and ability to showcase personality.
  - 50% Interview
    - Communication Skills (20%) – Clarity, confidence, and professionalism in responses.
    - Leadership & Community Engagement (15%) – Demonstrated interest in leadership, community, and cooperative values.
    - Personality & Poise (15%) – Enthusiasm, creativity, and overall impression as a potential Youth Tour representative.

Questions concerning the contest should be directed to Kory Bowman, at [kbowman@mycentral.coop](mailto:kbowman@mycentral.coop) or 405.533.4185.