

2023 YOUTH TOUR INFORMATION

- March 3rd - Youth Tour application deadline
- March 17th - Essay deadline
- March 29th - Youth Tour judging 4:30 p.m. at Clarke Electric Cooperative
- June 17 – 23rd Trip to D.C.
- September- YT Winner will come to Annual Meeting in Osceola and talk about D.C. experience

YOUTH TOUR JUDGES

(To Be Announced)

JUDGING CRITERIA

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|---|-----------|
| 1. Essay (style, accuracy, and content) | 20 points |
| 2. Knowledge of packet/judge's questions | 10 points |
| 3. Articulation/Presence (positive representative for coop) | 10 points |

Total possible points

40 points

PACKETS TO CONTESTANTS

(Will be sent upon receiving application)

Information included:

1. Letter of information
2. Fact sheet of Clarke Electric Cooperative, Inc.

3. Essay Topic
4. "Rural Electric Youth Tour" book from NRECA

Essay Topic

Rural Electric Cooperatives across our nation rely on seven principles to guide the cooperative's activities. A list of the "Seven Cooperative Principles" will be provided.

"Which Of the Seven Cooperative Principles is most important to you and why?"

Essay guidelines

1. Entries should be typed on one side of 8.5 X 11 in. paper.
2. Entries should be no more than 500 words and a minimum of 1 ½ pages.
3. Some resource material will be provided.

www.nreca.org - NRECA is our national association of rural electric cooperatives. This sight gives the seven cooperative principles and a history of rural electric cooperatives.

www.cecnet.net - Clarke Electric Cooperative's web-site.

www.youthtour.coop - Youth Tour web-site. It has video of last year's trip and all kinds of information regarding the trip

YouTube Type in NRECA Youth Tour, you will find all kinds of videos showing what goes on.



7 Cooperative Principles

Principle #1 *Voluntary and Open Membership*

Cooperatives are voluntary organizations, open to all persons able to use their services and willing to accept the responsibilities of membership, without gender, social, racial, political, or religious discrimination

Principle #2 *Democratic Member Control*

Cooperatives are democratic organizations controlled by their members, who actively participate in setting policies and making decisions. The board of directors is elected by and accountable to the membership. In primary cooperatives, members have equal voting rights (one member, one vote) and cooperatives at other levels are organized in a democratic manner.

Principle #3 *Non-Profit and Return of Capital Credits*

Members contribute equitably to, and democratically control, the capital of their cooperative. They do not issue stock. Surpluses are margins, not profits.

The cooperative allocates margins, in excess of any amounts needed to operate the cooperative, to members' capital credits accounts. Unlike IOU's, margins are retained locally - not sent off to distant stockholders as dividend payments.

Principle #4 *Autonomy and Independence*

Cooperatives are not governmental organizations. They are privately owned, autonomous corporations controlled by their members. If they enter into agreements with other organizations, including governments, or raise capital from external sources, they do so on terms that ensure democratic control by their members and maintain their cooperative autonomy.

Principle #5 *Education, Training, and Information*

Cooperatives provide education and training for their members, elected representatives, managers, and employees so they can contribute effectively to the development of their cooperatives. They inform the general public, particularly young people and opinion leaders, about the nature and benefits of cooperation. CFC has a cooperative education fund to support this.

Principle #6 *Cooperation Among Cooperatives*

Cooperatives serve their members most effectively and strengthen the cooperative movement by working together through local, national, regional, and international structures.

Principle #7 *Concern for Community*

While focusing on member needs, cooperatives work for the sustainable development of their communities through policies accepted by their members.

