

Lea County Electric Cooperative, Inc. 2026 Government-In-Action Youth Tour Application



CONTEST RULES AND REQUIREMENTS

To be eligible for the contest, the students must:

- ✓ Be a high school junior or senior.
- ✓ Be a dependent of an active Lea County Electric Cooperative (LCEC) member and reside in the LCEC service territory.
- ✓ Submit the completed application and three (3) written short essays to LCEC by the close of business (5:00 p.m.) on Friday, October 3, 2025.

APPLICATION PROCEDURE

Applications will be considered when the following information has been received at Lea County Electric:

1. Completed application with applicant's and parent/guardian's signatures.
2. Parent or guardian's current LCEC account number provided on the application. (The account number will be printed on member's most recent billing).
3. Three (3) completed short essays written on the suggested topics. Two (2) essays are chosen by LCEC and are not limited to the number of words included. One (1) essay is the applicant's choice from four (4) suggested topics and is limited to 500 words.

The LCEC 2026 Government-in-Action Youth Tour Application may be obtained from any LCEC office, High School Counselor's offices or our website at www.lcecnet.com.

Return completed applications and essays to:

Lea County Electric Cooperative, Inc.
1300 West Avenue D – Lovington, New Mexico

Lea County Electric Cooperative, Inc.
203 South Main – Tatum, New Mexico

Lea County Electric Cooperative, Inc.
1547 US Hwy 82 – Plains, Texas

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COMPLETED APPLICATION MUST BE RECEIVED AT LEA COUNTY ELECTRIC NO LATER THAN 5:00 P.M., October 3, 2025.

All information contained within the application is strictly confidential. The LCEC Government-in-Action Youth Tour Selection Committee reserves the right to require verification of all information provided by the applicant, if deemed necessary.

APPLICANT INFORMATION		
Student Name:		
Mailing Address:		
City:	State:	ZIP Code:
Physical address (where you reside):		
City:	State:	ZIP Code:
Phone:	Cell Phone:	Email:
Relationship to LCEC Member:		Birthdate:
Have you been a finalist for the Youth Tour in the past: <i>(circle one)</i> Yes No		
If yes, what year:		
Have you been a Youth Tour Delegate in the past: <i>(circle one)</i> Yes No		
If yes, what year:		
PARENT OR GUARDIAN INFORMATION		
Name of Parent or Guardian:		
Is Parent or Guardian an active LCEC member? <i>(circle one)</i> Yes No		
Name Appearing on LCEC Bill:		
Electric Service Address:		Account No.:
City:	State:	ZIP Code:
Phone:	Work Phone:	Cell Phone:
Email of Parent or Guardian:		
SCHOOL INFORMATION		
Name of High School or Home School Association:		
Address:		Phone:
City:	State:	ZIP Code:
High School Principal or Counselor:		
Phone:	Fax:	Email:
Expected Date of Graduation:		

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STUDENT RELEASE

Selection will be made without regard to the applicant's race, color, ethnicity, religion, gender, or physical handicap. Winners from LCEC will be selected for the Washington, D.C. trip. Selection is based on the completed application. The 2026 NM Government-In-Action Youth Tour will be held June 15-20 and the TX Government-In-Action Youth Tour will be held June 14-21 (tentative). Delegates selected to represent LCEC as a Youth Tour delegate are required to travel with their state delegation for the full tour. Delegates are not allowed to travel independently from the delegation to, from or during the trip to Washington, D.C. except in the case of an emergency. In the event of an emergency, arrangements must be approved and will be coordinated through the Statewide organization. If a delegate cannot attend the entire Youth Tour, the delegate will be required to forfeit the trip and will become an alternate.

I certify that this information contained in this application is true, complete, and accurate. I authorize release of information to confirm and/or verify this application. I further authorize release of my name and photos in connection with announcements of Youth Tour awards in the event that I am selected to be a LCEC Youth Tour recipient.

Applicant's Signature: _____ Date: _____

PARENT RELEASE

I/We hereby grant permission for (name of student) _____ to enter the LCEC Government in Action Youth Tour competition. I/We further authorize release of the name and photos of my/our child in connection with announcements of Youth Tour awards in the event that he/she is selected to be a LCEC Youth Tour recipient. I/We understand that my/our child must attend the entire Youth Tour and travel both to and from Washington with the state delegation. Only in the event of an emergency will my/our child be able to leave the tour. I/We understand that coordination of my/our child's return in the event of an emergency will be coordinated through the Statewide organization.

Parent Signature: _____ Date: _____

Relationship to Applicant: _____

FOR LCEC OFFICE USE ONLY		
Date Application Received:	Eligibility Verified:	LCEC Employee:

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Please answer all questions on separate sheets of paper. Please print neatly or type and double-space each essay using a 12-point font. (No handwritten cursive submissions, please.) Number each essay response with the corresponding question number.

Prepare a brief essay on each of the following topics:

1. What is a cooperative; its purpose; method of operation, etc? How is a cooperative different from an investor-owned electric utility?

2. Why should you be chosen as Lea County Electric's delegate to the 2026 Youth Tour? What would you expect to gain from the experience?

Prepare a 500-word essay on one of the following questions:

1. Of all the political leaders in our nation, past or present, who do you admire most and why?

2. What current issue interests you most and why?

3. Growing up in a rural area has certain advantages as well as disadvantages. Describe how living in the eastern New Mexico and west Texas area has influenced your development.

4. In terms of personal development, what is your greatest strength and how has it enhanced your life?