



Macon Electric Cooperative

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

MEC Youth Shine in Adventures across Missouri and D.C.

What do powerline demos, Capitol tours, museum adventures, and late-night dance cruises on the Potomac all have in common? They were part of a life-changing summer for eight outstanding local students who were selected to represent Macon Electric Cooperative (MEC) in two of Missouri's most exciting youth leadership programs: Youth Tour to Washington, D.C. and CYCLE (Cooperative Youth Conference and Leadership Experience) in Jefferson City.

From the Heart of Missouri to the Nation's Capital: Youth Tour 2026

For Bella Baker (Atlanta), Lydia Britt (Salisbury), Emelia Flores (North Shelby), and Briah Mallett (Bevier), summer kicked off with a once-in-a-lifetime, all-expense-paid trip to Washington, D.C., June 14–20. These bright young leaders joined over 100 Missouri teens on the 63rd Annual Missouri Electric Cooperative Youth Tour.

From strolling through the Smithsonian Museums to witnessing the Changing of the Guard at Arlington National Cemetery, the group got an unforgettable look at American history and democracy in action. Highlights included visiting



congressional offices, exploring the International Spy Museum, and enjoying a scenic sunset cruise on the Potomac River complete with dancing and new friends from across five other states.

One of the most inspiring moments came during Electric Youth Day, where thousands of students gathered to hear from national leaders and motivational speakers—like Paralympic champion Mike Schlappi—who brought big energy and even bigger dreams.

Leadership, Laughter & Learning: The CYCLE Experience

Just a few weeks later, Jada Nelson, London Smith (both of Atlanta), Makenna Wright (Macon) and Kylee Krumpleman (Marceline) packed their bags and headed to Jefferson City for the CYCLE conference, held July 14–17 at the DoubleTree Hotel.

(Continued on next page.)

MEC Youth Shine in Adventures across Missouri and D.C. (Continued)

CYCLE is no ordinary leadership program. It's four days of hands-on learning, competitive team-building games, inspiring speakers, and enough energy to power a whole co-op. The students explored how a bill becomes a law at the Missouri State Capitol, played the ever-popular "Build-a-Cooperative" game, and even got an up-close look at electric vehicles and safety demos at Central Electric Power Cooperative.

A moving presentation by Rachel's Challenge, based on the life and message of Rachel Scott, the first victim of the Columbine tragedy, left a lasting impact, encouraging kindness, courage, and leadership in everyday life.

The learning didn't stop there! MEC's CYCLE delegates also took a day trip to St. Louis, explored the quirky and colorful City Museum, marveled at the Gateway Arch, and finished the adventure with games and food at Dave & Buster's.

Fueling the Future

Both Youth Tour and CYCLE are sponsored by Macon Electric Cooperative as part of their commitment to supporting education, leadership, and community involvement.

"These students are the best and brightest," said Chris Massman, vice president of Member Services at the Association of Missouri Electric Cooperatives. "We're proud to help shape their leadership journeys and maybe even launch their future careers."

CYCLE is now in its 23rd year and has earned national recognition as one of the top youth programs among all electric cooperatives. Since 1958, over 60,000 students have taken part in the Youth Tour legacy.

Know a future leader?

Visit www.moyouthtour.com or contact Rebecca Miller at rmiller@maconelectric.com to learn more about how your student can get involved in next year's programs.



Reliability Starts Long Before the Lights Go Out

At Macon Electric Cooperative, reliability isn't just about restoring power after a storm—it's about the work happening every day to help prevent outages before they occur.

Throughout the year, our crews work diligently to maintain and strengthen the electric system that serves our members. From replacing aging poles and upgrading line equipment to inspecting substations and trimming trees along rights-of-way, these proactive improvements are essential to providing safe and reliable electric service.

One of the most significant projects completed this year was our system-wide advanced meter exchange. The new meters provide faster outage detection, improved system monitoring, and

better communication between the cooperative and our electric distribution system. These technological upgrades allow our employees to respond more efficiently when outages occur while helping us identify potential issues before they become larger problems.

Reliability also depends on careful planning. Our engineering and operations teams continually evaluate the system to identify areas where infrastructure improvements can strengthen the grid and meet the growing needs of our communities. These investments help ensure Macon Electric Cooperative is prepared to serve both today's members and future generations.

While severe weather and unexpected events can't always

be avoided, preparation makes a difference. Every pole replaced, every mile of line inspected, and every piece of equipment upgraded contributes to a stronger electric system for the more than 11,000 services we proudly serve.

As a member-owned cooperative, every decision we make is guided by what's best for our membership. By investing in modern technology, maintaining our infrastructure, and planning for the future, we're committed to delivering the safe, reliable, and affordable electricity our members depend on every day.

Thank you for trusting Macon Electric Cooperative to power your homes, farms, businesses, and communities.



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OFFICE HOURS

8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. |
Monday- Friday

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CLOSURES:

Monday, September 7 - Labor Day
Wednesday, November 11 - Veteran's Day
Thursday, November 26 - Thanksgiving Day
Friday, November 27 - Thanksgiving Break