

**ROLLING HILLS
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE**

NEWS

**ROLLING HILLS
ELECTRIC CO-OP, INC.**

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For outage updates,
energy efficiency tips and
cooperative news.

OCTOBER IS NATIONAL CO-OP MONTH • JOIN US AT THE ANNUAL

CO-OPPORTUNITY DAY

COMMUNITY PICNIC

AT ROLLING HILLS ELECTRIC CO-OP
3075B US HWY 24, BELOIT

OCT. 2, 2026

11 A.M. TO 1 P.M.

Central Valley Ag, Farmway Credit Union
and Rolling Hills Electric Co-op invite the
entire community to join us for a FREE
community picnic.

**Come celebrate National Co-op
Month with your local cooperatives.**

BRING A FOOD PANTRY ITEM TO DONATE



Rolling Hills Electric Cooperative Sponsors Beckman on a Trip to the Nation's Capital

LAKYN BECKMAN, junior from Ellsworth Jr./Sr. High School, recently represented Rolling Hills Electric at the 2026 Electric Cooperative Youth Tour in Washington, D.C., June 13-19. During their time in Washington, D.C., students deepened their understanding of America's electric cooperatives and developed their leadership skills while connecting with peers from across the cooperative network.

This year, the Eastern Maine Electric Cooperative joined with the Kansas-Hawaii delegation. These 32 standout student representatives, 27 from Kansas, four from Hawaii, and one from Maine, were hand-selected through an application process. RHEC requires an essay, résumé and open-book test before an in-person interview.

The Youth Tour kicked off in Topeka with a speech from Trooper Ben, a welcome from other notable Youth Tour alumni, and dinner, followed by an exclusive night tour of the Kansas State Capitol. The tour was led by Senator Brenda Dietrich and Representative Tobias Schlingensiepen, along with Peter Barstad, director of policy in the Kansas House Majority Leader Chris Croft's Office. After returning to the hotel, students had the opportunity to get to know each other better with icebreaker activities.

In Washington, D.C., students explored iconic landmarks including the U.S. Capitol, Arlington National Cemetery, and The People's House – A White House Experience, along with numerous monuments and memorials. Visits to the Holocaust Memorial



Lakyn Beckman represented Rolling Hills Electric Cooperative at the 2026 Electric Cooperative Youth Tour in Washington, D.C.

Museum and the Smithsonian museums offered powerful insights into history and culture.

On June 18, during the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association's (NRECA) National Youth Day, students were inspired by a dynamic lineup of speakers, including NRECA CEO Jim Matheson, NRECA President Mike Partin, Paralympic Gold Medalist Mike Schlappi, and Brynn Lee Hirata, the 2026 National Youth Leadership Council Spokesperson. This year's NRECA Youth Tour brought together around 2,100 delegates and chaperones across 44 states to Washington, D.C. This attendance represents a record of almost 700 cooperatives, bringing attendance back to pre-pandemic levels.

Students had the unique opportunity to meet with U.S. Senators Jerry Moran and Roger Marshall. Additionally, delegates met with Chief of Staff Krisann Pearce, from

"The memorials for people who passed showed all the sacrifices others have made, [which] impacted me about how lucky I am to live in such a great country."

LAKYN BECKMAN
2026 ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE YOUTH TOUR DELEGATE

Congressman Derek Schmidt's office; Legislative Assistant Rylee Rosamond, and intern Hayden Napierala (a 2023 Youth Tour alumna) from Congressman Tracey Mann's office; and intern Cappi Hoeting (a 2022 Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp alumna) from Senator Moran's office. During these discussions, students asked thoughtful questions on a range of topics that mattered to them, gaining firsthand insight into the legislative process and the role of elected officials.

Beyond the educational experiences, students enjoyed unique opportunities to bond with peers from across the country — trading pins with other state delegations and taking in the sights during a scenic dinner cruise on the Potomac River.

Reflecting on their experience, Beckman shared, "I think the memorials had the most impact on me. Seeing and appreciating what all these wonderful Americans have done to shape our country helped me see what America is all about. The memorials for people who passed showed all the sacrifices others have made, [which] impacted me about how lucky I am to live in such a great country."



Lakyn Beckman (second from left) poses with Kansas delegates in front of the Washington Monument during the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour to Washington, D.C.

Students who participated in the 2026 Youth Tour are also eligible to apply for the NRECA Glenn English Scholarship. For more information about the Youth Tour or other KEC youth programs, please contact Lisa Colson, youth coordinator, at lcolson@rollinghills.coop or 785-534-1601.



ABOVE: Thirty-two students representing electric cooperatives from Hawaii, Kansas and Maine stand in front of the Lincoln Memorial. Students visited a variety of monuments and memorials while in Washington, D.C., for the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour.

RIGHT: Lakyn Beckman (front center) poses with fellow delegates in front of the U.S. Capitol in Washington, D.C.



JOIN OUR BOARD

Rolling Hills Electric Cooperative Board of Trustees members reside on the Rolling Hills service area and are elected by the membership.



BENEFITS OF SERVING ON THE ROLLING HILLS ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE BOARD OF TRUSTEES:

- ▶ **SERVE YOUR COMMUNITY** — Help represent the members in your district.
- ▶ **HAVE A VOICE IN THE COOPERATIVE'S FUTURE** — Participate in decisions that affect RHEC and its members.
- ▶ **LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE** — Gain valuable experience in governance, decision-making, and strategic planning.
- ▶ **MAKE A DIFFERENCE LOCALLY** — Help ensure our cooperative continues to meet the needs of rural communities.
- ▶ **LEARN ABOUT THE ELECTRIC INDUSTRY** — Gain insight into operations, energy issues, regulations, finances, and cooperative programs.
- ▶ **WORK WITH OTHER COMMUNITY LEADERS** — Build relationships with fellow trustees, employees, and cooperative leaders.
- ▶ **REPRESENT MEMBER INTERESTS** — Bring your district's perspective and concerns to the board.
- ▶ **HELP SHAPE LONG-TERM PLANNING** — Be involved in decisions that impact RHEC for years to come.

Interested in serving your community and helping guide the future of your electric cooperative? Consider becoming a Rolling Hills Electric Cooperative Trustee. Trustees represent members, help make important decisions, and guide the long-term success of the cooperative. Contact our office to learn more about the election process and trustee responsibilities. Call 785-534-1601 or 800-530-5572.

SAVE ENERGY THIS *Fall and Winter*



FOLLOW THESE SIMPLE TIPS TO REDUCE ENERGY USE AND KEEP YOU WARM THIS SEASON:

- ▶ Seal gaps around windows and doors with caulk or weatherstripping.
- ▶ Close curtains and blinds at night to keep the cold out.
- ▶ Open window coverings on sunny days to let the sun in.
- ▶ Clean or replace furnace filters.
- ▶ Run ceiling fans clockwise to push warm air down.
- ▶ Check insulation in your attic, attic hatch and crawl space.
- ▶ Use a smart thermostat to lower temperatures when asleep or away.
- ▶ Close the fireplace flue when not in use.
- ▶ Schedule a home energy audit to find and fix energy wasters.

SOURCE: WWW.SAFELECTRICITY.ORG