



Electric cooperatives have always had a strong commitment to their local youth. It's all part of a much larger "Commitment to Community," one of the seven cooperative principles that guide Citizens Electric. Each summer, a majority of Missouri's electric cooperatives supports that commitment by sending nearly 200 youth, most entering their senior year of high school, on two different trips with similar goals.

The Youth Tour and CYCLE programs are two great ways Citizen Electric gets involved with helping develop leadership potential in future cooperative members. The future economic viability of rural communities depends on the cooperatives developing their rural leadership.

If you are a high school junior and your parents receive electric service from Citizens Electric, you are eligible to participate in the Youth Tour & CYCLE programs. Many past Youth Tour & CYCLE participants have also received CEC college scholarships.



For over 50 years electric cooperatives in Missouri have sponsored essay contests to select delegates to the annual Youth Tour to Washington, D.C. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Youth Tour will be virtual and held at local and regional locations. Besides meeting and interacting with other Missouri youth leaders involved in the Virtual Youth Tour, participants will hear from motivational speakers, learn about electric cooperative career opportunities, and engage in virtual team events to build upon their leadership skills. Winners will spend two days at Citizens Electric in Perryville and a third day at a district location. Youth Tour winners will also receive a \$1,000 award from Citizens Electric for their participation in this three-day event June 16-18, 2021.



CYCLE (Cooperative Youth Conference & Leadership Experience) is also a three-day event normally held in Jefferson City in late July. It brings in some of the brightest young leaders from across Missouri. The focus is to educate students about electric cooperatives, teach leadership skills, and experience Missouri state government. The format for CYCLE will be similar to the Virtual Youth Tour. Winners will spend two days at Citizens Electric and a third day at a district location engaged virtually with other youth leaders across the Show-Me state. CYCLE winners will receive a \$250 award for their participation in this three-day event July 21-23.

Health protocols will be observed at the Youth Tour & CYCLE small pod events to ensure the well being of all participants. Travel to district locations will be provided by Citizens Electric.

Enter the 2021 Youth Tour/C.Y.C.L.E. Essay Contest!

Essay or video topic (500-750 words or 2 minutes):

Youth Tour and CYCLE participants are often leaders in their school and community. Please explain what leadership role you play and how this opportunity will assist you to continue to be a leader in the future.

To participate: Fill out both pages and mail it with your essay or video to:



Youth Tour/CYCLE Essay Contest

Citizens Electric Corporation
1500 Rand Avenue
Perryville MO 63775

Entries must be postmarked by Monday, March 26th, 2021

Official entry application

Please enter me in the "2021 Youth Tour/CYCLE Contest," sponsored by Citizens Electric Corporation

Name (Print): _____ Age: _____

I am a junior at: _____

My parent(s) /guardian(s) are: _____

Our mailing address is: _____

Our phone number is: _____

My email address is: _____

As parent/guardian of the above-named student, I give my approval for him or her to enter the "2021 Youth Tour/CYCLE Essay Contest," and if selected to receive a trip, he/she has my permission to participate.

Parent/Guardian Signature

Student Signed



YOUTH TOUR & C.Y.C.L.E. STUDENT PROFILE

Name: _____ School: _____

1. List any extracurricular activities (teams, clubs, organizations, etc.) you participate in: _____

2. In what ways do you spend your free time? _____

3. What are your education/career plans after high school? _____

4. What is the one thing you would do to improve your community? _____

5. Why did you enter this contest? _____

Entries must be postmarked by Friday, March 26, 2021