



Big Country Electric Cooperative, Inc.

Big Country Development Corporation

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner 
The power of human connections®

Dr. Ron Morris, Principal
Sweetwater High School
1205 Ragland
Sweetwater, TX 79556

November 16, 2016

Dear Dr. Morris:

Do you know an outstanding or deserving teenager who would enjoy and benefit from a fun and educational trip to Washington, D.C.? Encourage them to apply for the 2017 Government-in-Action Youth Tour!

Big Country Electric Cooperative requests your help spreading word amongst your students about the Government-in-Action Youth Tour, a weeklong, all-expense-paid trip to the nation's capital. Big Country EC will send three students on the 2017 Youth Tour, scheduled for June 7-16. The statewide trade association, Texas Electric Cooperatives, coordinates the trip. The three winners and one runner-up will each receive \$1,500 scholarships as well. Students' parents/guardians DO NOT have to be members/customers of Big Country Electric Cooperative in order to compete in and win the Youth Tour contest.

Students selected for this opportunity join more than 100 of their peers from Texas and another 1,700 from across the U.S. on this trip of a lifetime. Inspired by Lyndon B. Johnson's desire to give young people insight into national government, Youth Tour expands participants' horizons while educating them about government and cooperatives. Electric cooperatives in Texas have participated in Youth Tour since 1965.

The trip starts with a day in Austin, where students begin by touring the Texas State Capitol, Capitol Visitors Center, Bob Bullock Texas State History Museum and Texas State Cemetery. Activities include seeing a show at the Bullock IMAX and Texas Spirit Theater and dining at the famous food trailers in South Austin.

Once in Washington, students partake in guided tours of historic sites, museums and congressional offices, where they meet with their U.S. representatives. Entertainment opportunities on the trip include seeing a performance at the Kennedy Center and going on a dinner and dancing cruise on the Potomac River. Participants also attend Youth Day, hosted by the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, for a day of learning and inspiration.

Please encourage students from your school to apply by January 26, 2017 by submitting their application and uploading their video (topic and instructions enclosed) to our Vimeo group site online. The group is only available to Youth Tour contestants. For your convenience, applications and contest materials (including posters to be displayed on campus) are included with this letter. Applications will be judged by employees of other cooperatives, and Big Country EC will announce winners by February 3, 2017.

Big Country EC will donate a grant in the amount of \$500 to the school that has the most students submit videos (minimum of 5).

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Website: <http://www.bigcountry.coop>

Separate from the Youth Tour, four scholarships are available through Big Country EC and affiliates:

- **Big Country EC Academic Scholarship** – Two \$4,000 scholarships will be awarded to graduating seniors whose parent(s)/guardian(s) are members of Big Country EC. Deadline: February 28, 2017.
- **Directors Memorial Scholarship, Golden Spread Electric Cooperative** - \$2,000 scholarships will be awarded to selected recipients who are 1) entering freshmen college or university students and; 2) child or spouse of a Big Country EC member. Deadline: March 1, 2017.
- **Texas Rural Electric Women's Association (TREWA) Scholarship** - Twenty (20) TREWA scholarships of \$1,500 each will be awarded to CURRENT TREWA members and their children. Applicant or applicant's parent or guardian must also be a current member or an employee of a Texas electric cooperative such as Big Country EC. Scholarships will be awarded to graduating high school seniors, full-time college students or adults, who have been accepted as a full-time student to attend any accredited college, university, junior college, community college, trade/technical school or business school of their choice. Visit TREWA.org for membership and scholarship applications and deadline information (usually early March).
- **Western Texas College Lineman Training Program Scholarship** – BCEC will award two \$1,500 scholarships to students enrolled in the program. Deadline August 17, 2017.

With the exception of the TREWA scholarship, application information is enclosed. Information about Youth Tour and Scholarships is also available on our website, bigcountry.coop.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact me. Additionally, I would be happy to schedule a time to meet with you or your students personally. Thank you for helping Big Country EC improve the quality of life of its members, including youths.

Sincerely,



Sarah McLen, Key Accounts Executive



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Bigcountry.coop • TexasYouthTour.com • YouthTour.org

Enclosures