

NEWS



Crawford Electric
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Cooperative 

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Co-op announces leadership trip winners;
3 juniors to go to D.C., 6 to Jeff City**

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

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BOURBON – A decades-long tradition will return this summer when Crawford Electric Cooperative sponsors local students on leadership-development experiences in Washington, D.C., and Jefferson City as part of the Youth Tour program. High school juniors from Bourbon, Owensville, Steelville and Sullivan were announced as winners at an event held at the co-op on Tuesday, March 15.

The COVID-19 pandemic has sidelined the traditional Youth Tour to the nation's capital for the past two years. Missouri's Cooperative Youth Conference and Leadership Experience (CYCLE) event in Jefferson City also had been canceled. Both trips are on for 2022.

This year's D.C. delegates are Anja Bumba, Katelyn Halbert and Regan Martin, all from Steelville. The CYCLE winners this year are Avery Bastunas, Katelynn Bertram and Aurora Maher representing Owensville High School, Wyatt Hardy of Sullivan, and Autumn Langlely and Lacie Volkmann of Bourbon.

On the Youth Tour to Washington this summer, Anja, Katelyn and Regan will become part of the Missouri delegation to a national conference of almost 1,700 young people from across the United States. The students will experience unique leadership-development opportunities, including special access to the halls of government, guided tours of the most-popular monuments and fun group activities over a week in June. CYCLE winners will enjoy similar activities at the state level over the course of several days in July.

Each year, Crawford Electric selects nine Youth Tour finalists based on students' essays on a selected topic. Then, the finalists each create a short video introducing themselves, talking about their essay and answering a few questions about their plans for senior year and beyond. Final judging to select the three D.C. Youth Tour winners is handled by three independent judges who read the essays and watched the students' videos.

This format allows for a unique judging experience.

"Since the final competition was video based, we enlisted out-of-state co-op communicators to serve as our judges," said Lori Rego, Crawford Electric's Youth Tour coordinator. "It was a great opportunity to demonstrate cooperation among cooperatives and work with colleagues from across the country."

Judges this year were Sarah Farlee in Kansas, Jonathan Farmer in Oregon; Ben Dunsmoor in South Dakota.

The three top-scoring finalists are Crawford Electric's 2022 delegates to the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour, an all-expense-paid trip to Washington, D.C., in June. The six other finalists in the local competition win the CYCLE trip to Jefferson City in July.

Crawford Electric Cooperative is a member of Touchstone Energy, a national alliance of locally owned, community-minded electric co-ops with high standards of service. Crawford Electric serves more than 20,000 meters along almost 3,000 miles of distribution lines in Crawford, Franklin, Gasconade, Washington and Dent counties.

