

## BECOME PART OF THE LEGACY

**STUDENTS CAN APPLY TO WIN AN ALL-EXPENSES-PAID TRIP TO WASHINGTON, D.C.**

*Pictured: Deanna Duensing, SWRE's sponsored student from Electra, Texas stands in front of the United States Capitol Building on the 2018 Youth Tour.*

Since their founding more than 80 years ago, electric cooperatives have been committed to empowering the communities they serve. Of course, that mission includes providing electricity, but it's so much more than that. Co-ops not only power homes and businesses across rural Texas and Oklahoma but also invest time, energy and compassion into improving their members' quality of life.

That means investing in our young people—the leaders of tomorrow. And one of the main ways Southwest Rural Electric works to empower local youth is through the Government-in-Action Youth Tour, a week-long, guided trip to Washington, D.C.

After a two-year hiatus due to the COVID-19 pandemic, SWRE is proud to sponsor two high school students from its service area to participate in the Texas Youth Tour (June 12-21, 2022) and Oklahoma Youth Tour (June 17-23, 2022).

Electric cooperatives sent their first Youth Tour delegation to Washington in 1965. The first group of deserving teens joined their peers from across Co-op Country to explore the capital, meet with their congressional representatives to discuss important issues and broaden their view of the world.

Since then, thousands of Texas and Oklahoma students have gone on the unforgettable trip.

To become part of this enduring legacy and represent SWRE on Youth Tour, apply now for the Youth Tour Essay & Speech contest.

Eligible entrants must:

- Be a high school junior (11<sup>th</sup> grade) attending school or living in SWRE territory.
- Not be the child or grandchild of any current SWRE employee or trustee.
- Submit an 750-word essay on the topic: *If you were to start a cooperative, what kind would it be and what would it offer? How would the new cooperative positively impact your community?*
- Submit a parent-signed entry form.

Applications must be submitted online at [SWRE.com/YouthTour](https://www.swre.com/YouthTour) by December 1, 2021.

For more information about Youth Tour, visit our website or contact SWRE's Youth Tour Coordinator at 1-800-256-7973.

## CEO's Message



CEO, Jeff Simpson

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Rebecca Chambless, *Power Source* editor

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# IT'S A MATTER OF (CO-OP!) PRINCIPLES PART II

// For me, this is a time of year for reflection, and topping my list of things I'm grateful for is our wonderful community. I know I speak for all SWRE employees when I say that we are thankful to be in such an incredible place. We are fortunate to live in the same place where we work, which makes our ties to this community that much stronger.

You may recall that last month, my column touched on the first three Cooperative Principles, so this month, I'd like to tell you about the remaining four principles. The Cooperative Principles are essential to the co-op business model and benefit all members of the co-op.

## AUTONOMY AND INDEPENDENCE

The fourth principal, Autonomy and Independence, means that the co-op operates in an autonomous way that is solely directed and guided by its members, reflecting the values and needs of our local community. This means the co-op is not being influenced by leaders or shareholders several states away. Instead, the co-op is led by the local members it serves.

## EDUCATION AND TRAINING

The fifth principle, Education and Training, focuses on enhancing the knowledge of co-op employees and board members, which enables them to contribute to the development of the co-op.

By investing in continuous learning for our employees and board members, our co-op is making a commitment not just to individual professional and personal growth, but to the future of the co-op and the high quality of service our members expect and deserve. It's a win-win situation.

We also strive to inform our members (that's you!) and the public about the mission and operations of the co-op. In fact, that's why you receive this magazine every month, so we can share the latest co-op news and updates, as well as energy efficiency and safety tips.

## COOPERATION AMONG COOPERATIVES

Cooperation among cooperatives is the sixth principle and fosters the way that co-ops work together to address bigger challenges. While this principle applies to all types of cooperatives, it is especially relevant in the energy industry. In our case, we put this principle in action after major storms and disasters that cause widespread power outages. When this happens, we call on nearby co-ops to come to our aid and assist with restoration efforts—and we of course extend the same help to them when they need us. I can't think of a better example of cooperation among cooperatives.

In addition, because we are part of the national electric co-op network, we can connect and collaborate with other electric co-ops to tackle industry-related challenges, like cybersecurity and an everchanging energy landscape.

## CONCERN FOR COMMUNITY

The seventh principle, Concern for Community, is essential to who we are as cooperatives. We serve our community not only by being an essential service, but by helping to power our local economy. Whether through economic development, volunteerism or donations to local causes, we invest in this community because it's our home, too.

Concern for Community is the wellspring of our charitable foundation, Operation Round Up, which collects the “rounded up” change from enrolled members each month and awards those funds back to SWRE communities in the form of grants.

I think you’ll find that most cooperatives bring good people together to make good things happen in the community. We hope you feel that way about us, your local electric co-op.

On behalf of everyone at SWRE, we’re thankful for your membership, and we hope you have a wonderful Thanksgiving. //

*Jeff Simpson*  
CEO

Community born.  
Community led.  
Focused on YOU.

**WE ARE PROUD  
TO POWER YOU.**

## STATEMENT OF NON-DISCRIMINATION

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*SWRE News*



**THE TRIP OF A LIFETIME**

GOVERNMENT-IN-ACTION

## YOUTH TOUR

TEXAS: JUNE 12-21, 2022

OKLAHOMA: JUNE 17-23, 2022

Are you a high school junior who dreams of traveling, meeting people and seeing historic sites—all without spending a dime of your own money? Then the Youth Tour to Washington, D.C., is your tour. Apply by **December 1, 2021!**

For more information, visit  
[SWRE.com/YouthTour](https://www.swre.com/YouthTour).

## Trading Post

**For Sale:** Church pews (26), hymnals (2 sets), dining tables (8), folding chairs (40), altars, organ, and piano. For more information, call (580) 305-2194.

**For Sale:** 1952 Ford 8N Tractor, 2012 Massimo ATV, 3-point post hole digger, brush hog, grader, and rake. Call (580) 954-5466 and make an offer.

**For Sale:** Reclining wheelchair and patient lift. Like-new condition. Call (580) 954-5466.

**For Sale:** Certified seed wheat. AP Roadrunner, Butler's Gold, OK Corral (awnless), Showdown, and SY Rugged in bulk. OK Seed License #08005320. Call (580) 465-0564 or (580) 482-4607.

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*Send your ad to the marketing department by mail, e-mail or phone!*

*MAIL: P.O. Box 310, Tipton, OK 73570*

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*PHONE: 1-800-256-7973*



## GRANNIE'S CANDIED SWEET POTATOES

### INGREDIENTS:

- 5-6 good-sized sweet potatoes
- 1 stick real butter (with salt)
- ½ cup warm water
- 3 cups sugar
- 1 teaspoon vanilla

### DIRECTIONS:

1. Peel and wash sweet potatoes; slice about ¼ inch thick.
2. Melt butter over medium heat in a large saucepan or Dutch oven. Add warm water.
3. Add sliced sweet potatoes to the pan. Gently stir in all the sugar.
4. Reduce heat to LOW and cover with a lid.
5. Cook until the potatoes are almost falling apart (about an hour).
6. Stir in vanilla, remove from heat.

*Source: This recipe was submitted by our Technology Specialist, Chandler Lingle, and was originally printed in the May 2019 edition of Power Source. It's his favorite recipe, so we decided to share it with you again!*

# SWRE

Southwest Rural Electric Association, Inc.

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