



SONNENBERG, GONZALEZ AWARDED YOUTH TOUR SCHOLARSHIPS

Gavin Sonnenberg and **Gabriel Gonzalez** have been named the winners in SWRE's annual Youth Tour Contest! Sonnenberg is a junior at Frederick High School and is taught by Mrs. Tari Espinosa. Gonzalez is a junior at Crowell High School and is taught by Mrs. Whitney Halsell.

SWRE has held the Youth Tour Contest for high school juniors living or attending school within its service area since 1964. This year, the cooperative received 61 essay submissions and an independent judge narrowed the competition down to eight finalists. The finalists then competed in SWRE's first-ever virtual speech competition, presenting live over video conference to a panel of independent judges.

For over five decades, the winner of the Youth Tour Contest has been awarded an all-expenses paid trip to Washington D.C. to join students across the country for the Government-in-Action Youth Tour. However, the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) announced earlier this year that the trip would be cancelled for the second year in a row due to health and safety concerns surrounding the pandemic. In lieu of the cancelled trip, SWRE has awarded Sonnenberg and Gonzalez grand-prize scholarships and an opportunity to participate in Oklahoma's Virtual Youth Tour Leadership Conference this summer. The runners-up have also received scholarships from the cooperative.

"Youth Tour represents one of our most important investments in the future of the communities we serve," said CEO Jeff Simpson. "The students who participate in Youth Tour travel to Washington to learn about the important role of electric cooperatives, meet their congressional representatives, and gain a deeper perspective on the history and mechanisms of our democracy. Attendees often return with a renewed commitment to their hometowns, and many have gone on to become teachers, doctors, lawyers, politicians and even co-op employees in those communities. Rest assured, as soon as conditions are deemed safe, SWRE will jump on the chance to send students once again on this unforgettable trip. In the meantime, we are proud to award scholarships to our winners so they may also flourish in our communities as previous Youth Tourians have done."

RUNNERS-UP

Caroline Newman, Frederick High School
Robert Joya, Crowell High School

FINALISTS

Cedar Smith, Crowell High School; **Harold Chapman**, Crowell High School; **Ryker Miller**, Navajo High School; **Tiona White**, Tipton High School

CEO's Message



CEO, Jeff Simpson

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Rebecca Chambless, *Power Source* editor

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SWRE is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Bill Pay Options:

SmartHub App
SWRE.com

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Outage Reports:

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UNDERSTANDING POWER OUTAGES

Although SWRE does everything it can to reduce the possibility of power outages, they still occur. Despite our best efforts, storms, falling tree limbs, vehicles and animals can cause outages. Sometimes all it takes is a squirrel climbing critical electrical equipment to cause a short circuit. Whatever the reason, your co-op always works as fast as it safely can to get your power restored.

Our number one focus will always be public safety. That means our crews will first clear lines and equipment that could pose safety hazards to the public. Next, they will turn their attention to generation facilities that provide the actual electricity that powers our distribution system. After that come transmission line and substation equipment repairs. Then your co-op will focus on feeder lines that can serve as many as 3,000 members, then tap lines that provide power to 20–30 homes or businesses, and finally connections to individual members.

During this process, crews will generally first make repairs to lines that power facilities critical to public health and safety—like hospitals, police and fire stations, water treatment plants, and communications

systems. How long it takes to get your power restored depends on the extent of the storm's destruction, the number of outages and when it becomes safe for co-op personnel to get to the damaged areas.

Whether it's a long outage or a short one, these tips can help keep your family safe and comfortable:

Call Southwest Rural Electric immediately to report the outage.

Use safe, nonelectric food preparations. A barbecue grill is an excellent way to prepare food, but always grill outdoors.

Have a storm kit prepared in advance. It should include flashlights, a battery-operated radio, batteries and first-aid supplies.

Turn off electrical appliances and unplug major electronics. Power sometimes comes back in surges. Your circuits could overload when power returns if all your electronics are still plugged in and turned on. Leave one light on to indicate when power has been restored. Once it has, wait a few minutes and then turn on other appliances, one at a time.

Jeff Simpson
CEO



DOWNLOAD SMARTHUB TODAY!

- << PAY YOUR BILL & SET UP RECURRING PAYMENTS
- << CHECK YOUR ELECTRICITY USAGE
- << SET UP OUTAGE & USAGE NOTIFICATIONS
- << UPDATE YOUR ACCOUNT INFORMATION
- << REPORT AN OUTAGE



SENIORS ATTEND LEADERSHIP SUMMIT



Twenty-eight students, representing Oklahoma's Electric Cooperatives, attended the 2021 Oklahoma's Electric Cooperatives Leadership Summit on March 15, 2021, at the Oklahoma State Fairgrounds. **Wiley Thomas** from Northside High School and **Kara McPherson** from Snyder High School were selected to represent SWRE at the event and received \$500 scholarships from the cooperative.

This annual event is designed to excite and motivate high school students to become leaders of their communities. More than 500 Oklahoma high school students have been recognized for their leadership abilities by having the opportunity to attend one of the previous Leadership Summits.



8TH GRADE ESSAY CONTEST WINNERS

Ty Halsell, Crowell Middle School
Teacher: Mrs. Whitney Halsell

Kara Elliott, Tipton Middle School
Teacher: Mrs. Marisa White

FINALISTS

Kadan McCarter, Crowell Middle School; **Allyssa Beam**, Northside Middle School; **Julissa Mendoza**, Vernon Middle School; **Abby Brooks**, Navajo Middle School; **Kynneddy Guthrie**, Navajo Middle School; **Kaden Ross**, Navajo Middle School

Congratulations to all!

“What would life be like without electricity?” We asked 8th graders in our territory to answer that very question in our annual Energy Camp Essay Contest and the answers were both creative and impressive! SWRE received 63 essays which an independent judge narrowed down to eight finalists. All finalists received a \$50 cash prize for participating, and the two winners—one from Texas and one from Oklahoma—earned a sponsored trip to Virtual Energy Camp this summer and a scholarship.

Trading Post

For Sale: Custom-built, walk-in goat feeder used to secure goats while feeding and working on them. Holds about 12 goats. Located in Mountain Park. Call (580) 481-0751 if interested.

For Sale: Heads-in wheat hay. Ten bales available at \$20/bale. Must pick up in Mountain Park area. Call (580) 301-3952 if interested.

For Sale: 7500 sq. ft. brick church and large parking lot located at 1100 S. 15th in Frederick, OK. Building is well-built with double sheet rock, 2x6 studs, and in a great location. For more information, call (580) 305-2194.

FREE classified non-commercial ad submissions are available for SWRE members only. Submissions must include the account holder's name and account number to be eligible. Ads are also posted on SWRE.com. Send your ad to the marketing department by mail, e-mail or phone!

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

E-MAIL: marketing@swre.com

PHONE: 1-800-256-7973



LIMEADE POPSICLES

Serving Size: 12

INGREDIENTS:

- ½ cup fresh lime juice
- ½ cup simple syrup
- 2 cups water
- Lime slices for garnish (optional)
- Popsicle molds or sticks

DIRECTIONS:

1. Stir together the lime juice, simple syrup, and water until fully incorporated.
2. Insert lime slices into molds if using, then add the limeade mixture to fill each mold.
3. Freeze for at least four hours. Enjoy!

Full recipe by Karly can be found at <https://asimplepantry.com/limeade-popsicles>.

SWRE

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