

# SWRE POWER SOURCE

*A Supplement to Oklahoma Living*



## YOUTH PROGRAMS

### YOUTH TOUR TRIP TO DC INSPIRES STUDENTS

*Cooperative-sponsored week in Washington proves to be trip of a lifetime for teens*

**Abby Kirkland from Crowell High School and Lauren Akin from Frederick High School** are back home from the 2022 Government-in-Action Youth Tour, and the experience is surely one they will never forget. The week-long trip, sponsored by Southwest Rural Electric, took the local students on a whirlwind adventure from their state capitals to Washington, D.C., which former Youth Tour participants deem “the trip of a lifetime.”

Kirkland joined 122 peers from all over Texas and Akin traveled with 58 other Oklahoma students for a guided, all-expenses-paid tour of the nation’s capital. The Youth Tour

trip itinerary would make a seasoned tourist envious. Students explored monuments and museums, including Mount Vernon; the Smithsonian Institution; the Holocaust Memorial Museum; and the Lincoln, Jefferson and Vietnam Veterans memorials, among others. They also took a cruise on the Potomac River and joined more than 1,900 other teens from across the country for a day of inspiring speakers and learning about the role of electric cooperatives.

The Texas and Oklahoma delegates spent time at Arlington National Cemetery and attended a wreath-laying ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. They even had

the opportunity to meet their elected representatives on Capitol Hill.

After a week of sightseeing and education in Washington, Kirkland and Akin returned home with a new appreciation for our veterans, government and their local electric cooperative.

Annually, SWRE sponsors two high school juniors in the co-op service territory to attend Youth Tour. Applications open in the fall. Visit [SWRE.com/YouthTour](https://www.swre.com/YouthTour) or call the SWRE Marketing Department at 1-800-256-7973 to learn more!

# THE ROAD TO SELF DISCOVERY



Jeff Simpson, CEO

// For many teens, the Rural Electric Youth Tour is full of *firsts*. It may be the first time they left the state, flew on a plane, visited the nation's capital or have been away from their family for an extended period of time. Even more, they are seeing and experiencing the larger world through their own eyes, rather than through their parents' perspective. That's the most important first, as it's truly a *leap* to their next phase and where their journey to adulthood begins.

In preparation for Youth Tour, teens learn about cooperatives, our history and grassroots advocacy. Youth Tour sprang from a suggestion of then Senator Lyndon B. Johnson to a national gathering of co-ops. Johnson felt youth from rural areas would benefit by visiting Washington to see first-hand how government works and gain a wider perspective through the experience. From this idea, Youth Tour evolved. High school juniors selected by their electric co-ops participate in a weeklong trip to the nation's capital. The program has grown exponentially since its inception.

## CLEAN SLATE

The week is interspersed with visits to many D.C. monuments and sites, including Capitol Hill. Activities with Youth Tour delegations from across the country enable teens to meet a broad spectrum of co-op kids. Our program creates a safe space for teens to discover the adults they are striving to be. Teens leave behind their hometown identity and venture forward with a fresh slate. Students are encouraged to stretch themselves by talking to those they wouldn't ordinarily interact with.

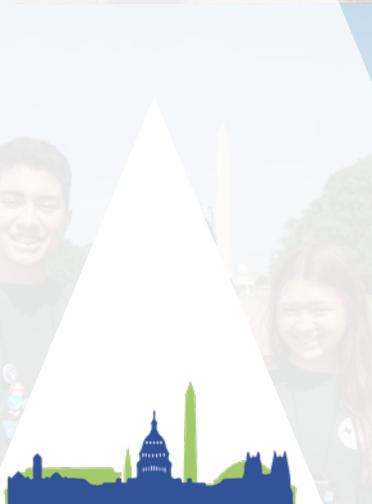
A highlight of Youth Tour includes a meeting with our congressional delegation. Teens learn first-hand that their elected officials work for their hometown community. Students often have the opportunity to discuss issues with legislators and our chaperones are always impressed with the interactions and questions asked by our students. Youth Tour culminates in a farewell evening centered on challenging and inspiring teens to make an impact in their communities. As conversations evolve, so too do the teens' world view – their definition of community often changes from their home town to a broader meaning.

I can say that nearly all teens who have participated in our Youth Tour program look back with fond memories of an educational, interesting and eventful week. Many make lifelong friends. For a few, Youth Tour is a transformational experience. Parents remark how their child returned noticeably different – more mature, more confident with bigger goals and aspirations; they have a sense of purpose.

## TAKE THE LEAP

Youth Tour is one of the most important programs that SWRE undertakes. I am constantly impressed by the caliber of students that our co-op sponsors. For example, some Youth Tour alums have become our most valued employees. Our teens are our future, and it's looking brighter every day. I hope you will consider urging your teen to *take the leap* and join our next Youth Tour delegation.

For more information about the Youth Tour program, visit [SWRE.com/YouthTour](http://SWRE.com/YouthTour). //



TRIP OF A LIFETIME

OK TX DC DC

VISIT SWRE.COM/YOUTHTOUR



## ENERGY CAMP BACK IN ACTION

HINTON, Okla. – Youth programs are back in full swing in 2022, including an exciting and successful Energy Camp hosted by Oklahoma’s electric cooperatives, which was held on May 31-June 3 at Canyon Camp in Hinton, Oklahoma.

Fifty-five exceptional rising high schoolers were selected by their local electric cooperatives to attend camp this year, including **Andrew Cardwell and Kade Marsh from Northside ISD**, and **MyLee Petty from Frederick Public Schools**. Cardwell, Marsh, and Petty were sponsored by SWRE.

“This year’s camp was one of the best ever,” said Stacy Howeth, OAEC Director of Member Services and Energy Camp director. “I think we’re all so excited to be back together that we saw the experience through a renewed vision. This year’s campers were fun, smart, creative and respectful! It truly was a great group.”

Through various activities at Energy Camp, campers gained a wealth of information about the cooperative business model, power source generation, transmission and distribution power lines, electric safety and the history of Oklahoma’s electric cooperatives.

The campers experienced the cooperative business model firsthand by electing a board of directors who then interviewed and hired a camp manager. The elected directors and camp manager maintained leadership roles during camp operations.

Additional camp activities included hands-on electric safety demonstrations including pole climbing, tabletop demonstrations, two renowned motivational speakers and an Energy Battle Tournament (a quiz bowl style challenge about electric cooperative trivia).

Campers also had a crash course on professional life skills such as budgeting, career options, working with people of different personality types, how to write and mail thank-you notes and interview tips and tricks.

Eighth graders that live or attend school in SWRE’s service area are encouraged to apply for Energy Camp in the spring. For more information about the Energy Camp Contest, visit [SWRE.com/EnergyCamp](https://www.swre.com/energycamp).





## LEADERSHIP SUMMIT

SWRE selects two high school students to attend Leadership Summit and receive a scholarship each year. Traditionally, these two representatives are the runners-up in the Youth Tour contest open to high school juniors.

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



*2022 Leadership Summit Attendees: Taylor Smith from Navajo High School and Abby Kirkland from Crowell High School*



# COMMUNITY GRANTS AVAILABLE

APPLICATIONS OPEN  
AUGUST 1 - OCTOBER 1

AREAS OF ASSISTANCE  
COMMUNITY  
EDUCATION & YOUTH  
SENIOR CITIZENS  
EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE  
INDIVIDUALS IN NEED

View grant guidelines  
(eligibility requirements)  
at [SWRE.com/RoundUp](http://SWRE.com/RoundUp).



## Trading Post

**For Sale:** Two sets of church hymnals in very good condition, “Sacred Selections for the Church” (28) and “Great Inspirational Songs” (25). Also, a set of Corelle dinnerware (44 pieces). Call (580) 305-2194 for more information.

**For Sale:** Dearborn cultivator with two rows, seven foot wide, and nine teeth in good condition. Located in Headrick, OK. Buyer must load. Asking \$200. Pictures available upon request. For more information, call (580) 302-1468.

**For Sale:** Craftique four-poster twin-sized bed, wheat-carved mahogany, authentic reproduction, excellent condition. DEWALT D51844 full-round compressor nail gun and nails. Call (580) 471-5304 if interested.

*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/Trading-Post](http://SWRE.com/Trading-Post).*

*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](mailto:marketing@swre.com)

PHONE: 1-800-256-7973

### Southwest Rural Electric

P.O. Box 310 • 700 North Broadway

Tipton, OK 73570-0310

Headquarters: 1-800-256-7973

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Rebecca Chambless, *Power Source* editor

### Bill Pay Options:

24/7 Bill Pay: 1-833-890-9510

SmartHub App or [SWRE.com](http://SWRE.com)

### Outage Reports:

24/7 Hotline: 1-833-590-0353

SmartHub App

SWRE is an equal opportunity provider and employer.



### INGREDIENTS:

1/3 c. red wine vinegar	12 oz. cooked chicken, diced
1 tbsp. Dijon mustard	8 slices bacon, cooked and crumbled
2/3 c. extra-virgin olive oil	1 avocado, thinly sliced
Kosher salt	4 oz. crumbled blue cheese
Freshly ground black pepper	5 oz. cherry tomatoes, halved
1 head romaine lettuce, coarsely chopped	2 tbsp. finely chopped chives
4 hard-boiled eggs, peeled and quartered	

### DIRECTIONS:

1. In a jar, shake together vinegar, mustard, and oil and season with salt and pepper.
2. On a large platter, spread out lettuce, then add rows of hard-boiled egg, chicken, bacon, avocado, blue cheese, and cherry tomatoes.
3. Season with salt and pepper, drizzle with dressing, and garnish with chives.

*Source: You can find this recipe by Lindsay Funston at <https://www.delish.com/cooking/recipe-ideas/recipes/a58703/best-cobb-salad-recipe/>.*

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