



An unforgettable opportunity

BY ALYSSA HILL

The Washington, D.C., Youth Tour was an absolutely amazing experience that I will never forget! At first, it seemed like spending a whole week in our nation's capital was going to be a long time, but the days on this trip went by so quickly. Looking back now, I am amazed at all the museums and monuments we were able to visit.

Our journey started in Great Falls, Mont., with an orientation for all of the Montana students, chaperones and parents. Traveling to Great Falls felt like the longest six hours of my life. I was so nervous to go on this trip because I did not know any of the other people who were going. I know now that I definitely had nothing to be worried about,

because most of the other kids didn't know anyone else either, and were just as nervous as I was.

The morning after orientation, we flew out of the Great Falls airport. From there, our first stop was in Minneapolis, Minn., where we met up with the delegates from North Dakota. After that, we flew to the Baltimore-Washington international airport. Once we had all picked up our luggage and got organized, we got on the bus, went to dinner at the Hard Rock Café, and then went to our hotel.

While in Washington, D.C., we had the opportunity to visit several museums and memorials. Some of my favorites were the National Museum of the Marine Corps, the Newseum, the Museum of Natural

History, and the World War II Memorial. I also really enjoyed meeting Montana's senators and the nighttime capital tour with Greg Gianforte. It was amazing to actually get to talk to the senators and ask questions. They were very eager to answer questions we had for them and were overall just fun to talk to.

I enjoyed everything that we did on this trip, but some of my overall favorite things were visiting the National Aquarium, Arlington National Cemetery, National Harbor and the United States Naval Academy. We went on a lot of fun tours and I met a lot of amazing people.

The chaperones on this trip did an amazing job of organizing this trip. They always made sure that we were on time so that we could do as much as possible during our trip. Every morning when we got on the bus, the chaperones told us a joke. While the jokes were never very funny, I guess that it is the thought that counts, and their failed attempts at making us laugh are something I will always remember.

The Washington, D.C., Youth Tour was truly an experience I will never forget, and I cannot possibly thank Lower Yellowstone Rural Electric Cooperative (LYREC) enough for selecting me to represent the cooperative in Washington, D.C., this year. I learned so much and met some great people. This was an amazing experience, and I will forever be thankful to LYREC, for giving me this opportunity! ■

JUNE 15-21, 2019

WRITE A WINNING ESSAY AND

WIN A TRIP OF A LIFETIME!



ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENT TO WIN AN ALL-EXPENSE PAID TRIP TO WASHINGTON, D.C.,

- The student's parents or legal guardians must be served by Lower Yellowstone Rural Electric Cooperative
- The student must be a sophomore or junior in high school
- The student must submit an application, letter of recommendation, and essay

Non-member contest - \$100 Cash Prize

- The student must be a sophomore or junior in high school
- The student must submit a non-member application and essay

The deadline is **Nov. 30, 2018**. Emailed entries should be directed to jamip@lyrec.coop, and hard copy entries mailed to: Youth Tour Essay Contest, Lower Yellowstone Rural Electric Cooperative, P.O. Box 1047, Sidney, MT 59270.

If you have a question, contact Jami Propp, Lower Yellowstone Rural Electric Cooperative, at the address listed above, or call 406-488-1602 during regular business hours.

Check out the essay contest guidelines and download an application at www.lyrec.coop.



essay QUESTION:

What would your day be like without electricity?

HIGH SCHOOL SOPHOMORES & JUNIORS





**SAFE,
RELIABLE,
AFFORDABLE
ENERGY.**

**THEN. NOW.
ALWAYS.**

*We are proud to
power your life.*

OCTOBER IS NATIONAL CO-OP MONTH

Community born, community led, focused on you

October is National Co-op Month, which is the perfect time to highlight the many ways electric cooperatives are unique. Lower Yellowstone Rural Electric Cooperative (LYREC), along with more than 900 other electric co-ops, are celebrating Co-op Month this October.

Electric co-ops promote good in their communities. Co-ops engage their members to do things that might otherwise be impossible or difficult, like more than 75 years ago when electric co-ops brought power to areas where other utilities did not find it economically feasible. Cooperatives exist to meet a need that was previously unmet in the community, and they are striving to anticipate and plan for the future needs of the members. Today, LYREC demonstrates its commitment to the community by providing electrical safety training, scholarship opportunities, energy efficiency rebates, as well as sponsoring community events and much more.

Cooperatives are locally governed, which gives us a great understanding of the needs of our local communities. The

cooperative is owned by its local members rather than faraway shareholders. The advantage of being locally owned is that it is possible to respond quickly to the changing needs of our community.

Cooperatives are not-for-profit. The excess revenue is returned to our members in the form of capital credits. In 2018, LYREC retired \$2 million in capital credits.

To best serve LYREC members, the cooperative looks at the long-term needs. Cooperatives collaborate with other cooperatives to explore new technologies, invest in equipment and infrastructure that benefits multiple co-ops and assist with major outages. This type of collaboration allows LYREC to address complex challenges while remaining true to our roots.

The co-op business model is unique. It is pragmatic, mission-oriented and puts people first. Co-ops strive to be a trusted voice in their communities. Co-ops have earned that trust because, while not perfect, they always have their members' best interest at heart and are determined to enrich the lives of those living and working in the communities they serve – now and in the future. ■

Coat and food drive

Lower Yellowstone Rural Electric Cooperative will hold its annual coat and food drive throughout October. All winter items will be donated to the Salvation Army. All nonperishable food items and toiletries will be donated to the Richland County Food Bank. You may drop off all donations at Lower Yellowstone Rural Electric Cooperative's office.



Co-op trivia anyone?

Throughout October, Lower Yellowstone Rural Electric Cooperative (LYREC) will be randomly posting trivia questions on its Facebook and Instagram page. The first person to answer correctly will win a prize. Join LYREC on Facebook and Instagram and help us celebrate Co-op Month.



Director **Dennis Nelson** presents **Kyle Topp** with the Reserve Champion Senior Small Animal Showman Award during the Richland County Fair.

Operating report

Year to date:	June 2017	June 2018
Total miles energized	2,111	2,101
Total number of meters	6,152	6,178
Kilowatt-hours sold	131,540,526	130,881,684
Revenue	\$13,463,512	\$13,325,449
Total expenses	\$12,623,560	\$12,764,164
Operating margins	\$2,390,802	\$1,463,388



3200 W. Holly - Sidney, MT 59270

Phone: 406-488-1602

Fax: 406-488-6524

Website: www.lyrec.com

TRUSTEES

Allen Thiessen	President
Greg Rauschendorfer	Vice President
John Redman.....	Secretary/Treasurer
Colin Gartner.....	Trustee
Dennis Schmierer.....	Trustee
Dennis Nelson	Trustee
Jim Vitt.....	Trustee

EMPLOYEES

Jason Brothen.....	General Manager
Brenda Bond	Chief Financial Officer
Jami Propp	Member Service Manager
Kyle Kavanagh.....	IT Coordinator
Margo Zadow.....	Billing Coordinator
Pam Wilcoxon.....	Plant Accountant
Tiffani Hentges.....	Customer Service Representative
Melissa Buckley.....	CSR/Staff Assistant
Chris Hillesland.....	Chief Operations Officer
Rich Gorde.....	Foreman
Eric McPherson.....	Foreman
Kevin Goff.....	Operations Assistant
Kelly Keysor	Operations Manager
Lee Alvstad.....	Journeyman Lineman
Aaron Eide.....	Journeyman Lineman
Bryan Franck	Journeyman Lineman
Jesse Obergfell	Journeyman Lineman
Blade Jankovsky	Journeyman Lineman
Tanner Roth.....	Journeyman Lineman
Ryder Peterson.....	Journeyman Lineman
Brandon Mueller.....	Master Electrician
Dan Gieser.....	Energy Management Supervisor
Mike Eberling.....	Mechanic
Richard Tremblay.....	Service Technician
Bo Kindopp.....	GIS/Easement Technician
Corey Candee.....	Chief Information Officer
Edwin Gatzke.....	Line Locator/Meter Reader
Justin King	Warehouse Supervisor

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 