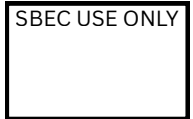




2026 Youth Tour Application



San Bernard Electric Cooperative (SBEC) will award an all-expense paid trip to Washington D.C. for three high school students for the Government-In-Action Youth Tour. Contest winners will join other students from Electric Cooperatives across Texas on a trip to our nation's capital to meet their congressional representatives, make lifelong friendships, further leadership skills, and visit amazing sites. This will be an unforgettable look inside U.S. History and Government.

Eligibility Rules and Winner Requirements:

- The winner must be able to participate in the Youth Tour trip to Washington, D.C. on June 14 - 21, 2026.
- You must have completed your sophomore, junior or senior year of high school by June 2026.
- Live in the home of parent(s) or legal guardian(s) who is a current San Bernard member and whose primary residence is in San Bernard's service territory.
- Submit a completed application form, written and video essay, resume, and one original letter of recommendation to SBEC no later than midnight on January 19, 2026.
- Past winners are not eligible.
- Attend orientation and interview on Monday, February 9, 2026, at 6pm at the SBEC Bellville Office; 309 West Main, Bellville, Texas 77418.

Applicant Name: _____ Birth Date: _____ Applicant Phone: _____

Applicant Email: _____ Grade: _____ School: _____

I certify that I have read the eligibility rules and winner requirements. The information contained in this application is true, complete and accurate. I hereby acknowledge that the attached documents were prepared and written by me, and I agree to permit the review of this application by members of the San Bernard Electric Cooperative Youth Tour Committee.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Parent/Guardian Names: _____ Relationship to Applicant: _____

Parent Email: _____

SBEC Account No.: _____ Parent Phone No. : _____

Mailing Address: _____ City, State, Zip: _____

Service Address: _____ City, State, Zip: _____

If different than mailing address

I understand that my child is competing to win a 9 day, all-expense paid trip (a \$4,375 value) to Washington, D.C., **June 14 - 21, 2026**, sponsored by San Bernard Electric Cooperative (SBEC). I further acknowledge that I am a SBEC member, and the above named applicant is my child and is living in my home. In the event that they are selected to be a SBEC Youth Tour recipient, I grant unrestricted permission for my child's name and image to be used in print, video and digital media. I agree that these images may be used by San Bernard Electric Cooperative for a variety of purposes and that these images may be used without further notifying me. *If my child chooses not to participate in the Youth Tour after Friday, June 12, 2026, I acknowledge that I will be responsible for reimbursing SBEC the full value of the trip.*

Parent Signature: _____ Date: _____

If selected as a Youth Tour delegate, you will travel to Washington, D.C., to explore and learn about America's rich history and government. Among the many iconic landmarks—such as the Veterans Memorials, National World War II Memorial, Washington Monument, Franklin D. Roosevelt Memorial, Thomas Jefferson Memorial, U.S. Capitol, and Library of Congress—which one are you most excited to visit, and why?

(Please Note: This statement will be read by applicant at the live interviews on February 9th if they are selected.)

Essay Formats & Topics: The top six applicants will be chosen based on the merit of the essays they submit. This includes demonstrating an understanding of the subject matter, originality, composition, grammar and neatness. The top six applicants will then be contacted for a personal interview on February 9, 2026, at 6pm at the Bellville Office.

Written Essay Format & Topic: The essays should be typed, no more than 300 words in length, 12-point font and double spaced. It should answer the following question:

Select one of the seven principles of electric cooperatives. Your story should be used to demonstrate why electric cooperatives are unique and a critical part of the communities they serve.

Video Essay Format & Topic: The video should be at least 3 minutes long and no longer than 5 minutes. Make sure the audio is clear, your face is visible throughout the video, and the video quality is good. It should answer the following question:

If you could have dinner with one historical figure from American history, who would it be and why? What would be your main topic of discussion?

Resume Criteria: Provide a resume highlighting school related or community activities or academic awards received. Include responsibilities, dates of participation, special honors received, offices held and any other pertinent information. Resume should be in pdf format, should not exceed one page in length, and should not include any images.

A completed application, written essay, video essay, resume, and original letter of recommendation must be submitted to the following link by midnight on **Monday, January 19, 2026** (No mail entries will be accepted).

<https://youthtour2026.sbec.org>

Please **title all documents using** Document Title – Name format. Example: Essay Video–John Doe; Application–John Doe

Applicant's essays are judged anonymously by a committee of members in our community. Live interviews will be held on Monday, February 9, 2026, and winners will be announced no later than February 11, 2026.

Please contact *Tiffany Stodder* at 979-413-7681 or TStodder@sbec.org with any questions.