2027 Youth Tour Application

San Bernard Electric Cooperative (SBEC) will award an all-expense paid trip to Washington D.C. for two 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 15 - 23, 2027.
- You must have completed your sophomore, junior or senior year of high school by June 2027.
- 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, one original letter of recommendation, and a high-resolution digital photo to SBEC no later than midnight on January 18, 2027.
- Past winners are not eligible.
- Attend orientation and interview on Tuesday, February 16, 2027, at 5 pm 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 $4,425 value) to Washington, D.C., **June 15-23, 2027,** 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 11, 2027, I acknowledge that I will be responsible for reimbursing SBEC the full value of the trip.*

Parent Signature: _____ Date: _____

Youth Tour provides students with the opportunity to learn about leadership, government, and civic engagement while representing their local electric cooperative in Washington, D.C. Think about a leader you admire, whether from history, your community, or your personal life. Who is that leader, what qualities make them an effective leader, and how do you hope to apply those qualities in your own life?

(Please Note: This statement will be read by applicant at the live interviews on February 16th if 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 16, 2027, at 5 pm 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:

Electric cooperatives are built on a commitment to serving their communities. Describe a need or challenge you have observed in your community. How would you use your leadership, talents, or resources to help address that challenge?

Video Essay Format & Topic: The video should be at least 2 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 had the opportunity to meet a member of Congress during Youth Tour, what question would you ask them and why is that question important to you?

Resume Criteria: Provide a resume highlighting school related, 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 and video essay, resume, one original letter of recommendation, and a high resolution digital photo must be submitted to the following link by midnight on **Monday, January 18, 2027** (No mail entries will be accepted).

https://youthtour.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. Live interviews will be held on Tuesday, February 16, 2027, and winners will be announced no later than February 23, 2027.

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