

FEBRUARY 2024

URECC NEWSLETTER



YOUTH TOUR 2024

Senator Lyndon Baines Johnson inspired the Youth Tour when he addressed the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) Annual Meeting in Chicago in 1957. The Senator and future president declared, *“If one thing comes out of this meeting, it will be sending youngsters to the national capital where they can actually see what the flag stands for and represents.”*

Consequently, some Texas electric cooperatives sent groups of young people to Washington to work during the summer in Senator Johnson’s office. In 1958, a rural electric cooperative in Iowa sponsored the first group of 34 young people on a week-long study tour of our nation’s capital. Later that same year, another bus load came to Washington from Illinois. The idea grew and other states sent bus loads of young people throughout the summer. By 1959, the “Youth Tour” had grown to 130 students.

In 1964, NRECA began to coordinate joint activities among the state delegations and suggested that cooperative representatives from each state arrange to be in Washington, D.C., during Youth Tour week. The first year of the coordinated tour included approximately 400 young people from 12 states. Word of the program has continued to spread and today, more than 1,600 students and over 250 chaperones participate in the Youth Tour every year.

Texas students have made that trip seeing sights such as the Smithsonian Institution Museums, the Lincoln Memorial, war memorial's, George Washington’s Mount Vernon estate, the U.S. Capitol and the White House, to name a few. They have shaken hands with senators and representatives, and some have even seen the president.

Coordination of the 2024 Youth Tour contest is already underway. Deadline for applications are February 16, 2024. High School Juniors, don't miss out on this once in a lifetime trip! Rule and application forms are available at urecc.coop/youth-tour

GOVERNMENT-IN-ACTION

YOUTH TOUR

JUNE 16-23, 2024



Are you a Texas high school student? Would you like to travel to Washington, D.C., and visit historic landmarks-all without spending a dime of your own money?

Perhaps you’d like to meet elected officials, or maybe you’re looking for inspirational experience in the company of other Texas teens. If that sounds like you, then the Government-in-Action Youth Tour is your tour. Apply now!

For more information, visit urecc.coop/youth-tour

UPSHUR RURAL ELECTRIC COMMUNITY FOUNDATION



URECC members have the power to change lives - For less than \$1 per month, URECC members can help local organizations and communities.

You may have heard of Operation Round Up that's in place at other electric cooperatives across the nation. It's a program that was started almost 30 years ago at Palmetto Electric Cooperative in South Carolina. All co-ops adhere to the seven cooperative principles, including "**Concern for Community**." The Operation Round Up program is the perfect embodiment of this core principle.

The program is simple. Members choose to round up their electric bill to the next dollar. Those pennies accumulate to do good work in the community. URECC has recently joined the hundreds of electric cooperatives around the country by introducing Upshur Rural Electric Community Foundation (URECF) and Operation Round Up with the goal of helping our local organizations.

How it Works:

Each month a member's bill will be rounded up to the next dollar and that money will be used for charitable community endeavors. So, if a member's bill is \$165.43, the bill would be rounded up to \$166.00 and the \$0.57 would go to help local non-profit entities through the Upshur County Electric Charitable Foundation. The average cooperative member would only donate about \$6.00 a year, and the maximum amount a member could contribute annually would be \$11.88.

How to Enroll:

Enrollment is simple from our SmartHub app or by contacting our Member Services department at 903-843-2536. With your donations, we can impact hundreds of lives, organizations, and communities across the URECC service area!

*Watch for more information on how URECF can help our direct communities and become a community-changing program.



Upshur Rural Electric Cooperative's 2024 Annual Meeting is set for Thursday, April 4th, at 1:00 PM.

Easy Valentine's Day Fudge



Ingredients:

2 2/3 cups white chocolate morsels
12 ounces store-bought strawberry frosting (1 container)
sprinkles (optional)

Instructions:

1. Line an 8-inch square baking pan with no-stick foil or greased parchment paper. Set aside.
2. In a large, microwave-safe bowl, place the chocolate chips and frosting. Microwave for 90 seconds at 70 percent power. Use the residual heat to stir the mixture well until the chocolate is fully melted and smooth. If necessary, microwave for additional 15 second intervals.
3. Scrape the fudge in the prepared pan and spread evenly. Top with sprinkles, if desired.
4. Chill until firm, about two hours. Cut into squares.

