

Rayle Lines

Member Newsletter



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WYT DELEGATES

Among Georgia's best and brightest



By Lindsay Penticuff



Georgia's 2024 Washington Youth Tour delegation poses in front of the White House in Washington, D.C.

CHRISTY CHEWNING

Georgia's 112 delegates representing 37 electric membership corporations (EMCs) were among nearly 1,800 high school students nationwide who visited Washington, D.C., in June for the Washington Youth Tour (WYT).

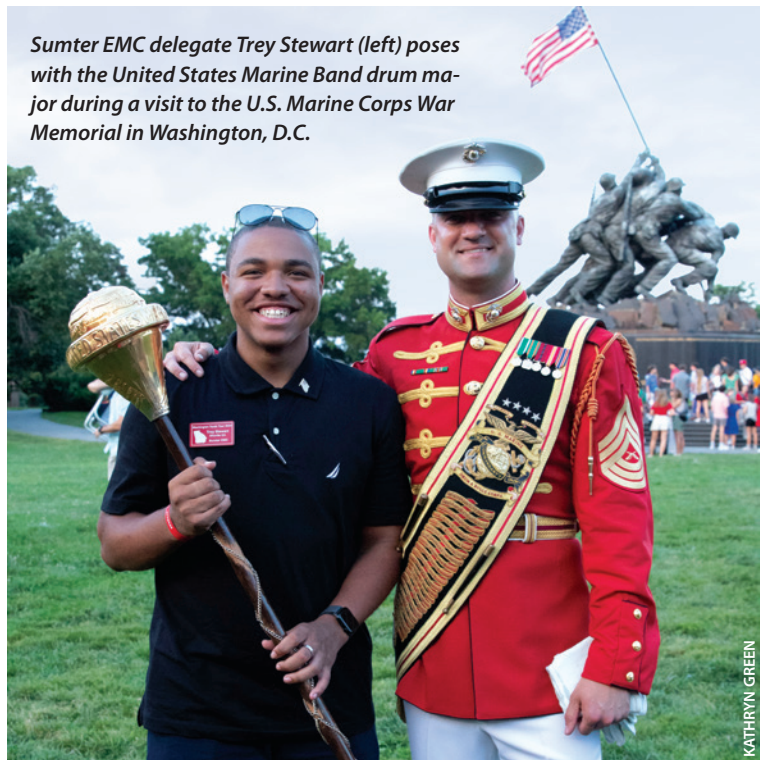
The event June 14-21 was the 59th year Georgia's EMCs sent students on the Youth Tour.

Once a year, high school students are selected by the state's EMCs to represent Georgia as delegates on the all-expenses-paid trip. This leadership experience includes meetings with state and national leaders, leadership training and visits to many major sites.

"The Washington Youth Tour continues to bring the best and brightest students from across our state together for a fast-paced week in Washington, D.C.," says Andy Paul, WYT Director and Public Relations Representative with Tucker-based Georgia EMC. "Our goal is for Georgia's delegates to learn about history and leadership while on the trip and, most importantly, be excited about returning home afterward to share the cooperative difference within their communities."

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Sumter EMC delegate Trey Stewart (left) poses with the United States Marine Band drum major during a visit to the U.S. Marine Corps War Memorial in Washington, D.C.



KATHRYN GREEN

Georgia students experience nation's capital

The Washington Youth Tour experience gives delegates an opportunity to visit as many as 25 of Washington, D.C.'s most historic sites. They also participate in team-building activities and events during which they can learn more about one another and meet delegates from throughout the United States.

Irwin EMC's Thomas Holt of Fitzgerald, who was selected by Georgia's 2024 delegation to represent the Peach State on the NRECA Youth Leadership Council, says attending the Youth Tour meant the world to him.

"I had a great time and found it to be a wonderful learning experience due to great mentors, excellent chaperones and incredible fellow delegates," he says. "These 'strangers' quickly became my family—people I would count on, confide in, laugh with and, eventually, cry with [when parting ways]."

Learn more about what Holt and the other delegates experienced during the 2024 trip.



Rayle EMC delegates pose for a photo while visiting Mount Vernon during the 2024 Youth Tour. From left: Hannah Grace Moon, Andee Dellinger and Kaylee Grimaud.

White House

One of the first stops on the weeklong Youth Tour was a photo opportunity at the White House. The location at 1600 Pennsylvania Ave. N.W. in Washington, D.C., was selected by former President George Washington in 1791 as the future home of our nation's president. There are 132 rooms, 35 bathrooms and six levels in the White House, and, on average, 6,000 people visit it daily.

Library of Congress

The Library of Congress was founded in 1800 and is the oldest federal cultural institution in the nation.



Delegates from Canoochee EMC, Sumter EMC, Planters EMC, Irwin EMC and Middle Georgia EMC pose with WYT Director Andy Paul (third from right) in front of the Lincoln Memorial.

It is the largest library in the world, with millions of items in a variety of formats. It includes international collections, a law library, rare books and manuscripts, and audiovisual collections.

"It was really cool to visit the Main Reading Room," says Holt, referring to one of the principal reference and book-service points of the Library of Congress' general collection.

Riverboat Cruise

Holt says he had an amazing time on the Washington Youth Tour Riverboat Cruise, which allowed delegates to get a picturesque view of the landscape along the Potomac River.

During the nearly three-hour cruise, Georgia students were joined by WYT delegates from North Dakota and Montana.



While visiting the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall, Holt (left) and fellow students look over the inscription of nearly 60,000 names of men and women who gave their lives or remain missing following the war.

George Washington's Mount Vernon

Located about 13 miles outside Washington, D.C., George Washington's Mount Vernon is the former home of the United States' first president and his wife, Martha. The estate features a mansion and dozens of historic outbuildings, a blacksmith shop, farm and wharf.

During their visit, WYT delegates toured the grounds, checked out the inside of Washington's mansion, visited the tombs of George and Martha Washington, listened to historic re-enactors describe the former president's



U.S. Sen. Jon Osoff (left) stands with Holt while addressing Georgia's delegation on the United States Capitol. The senator took time to chat with students, answering their questions and taking photos.

farming practices and enjoyed lunch at the famed Mount Vernon Inn Restaurant.

Presidential and War Memorials

There are seven presidential memorials and nearly 20 war memorials in Washington, D.C. These include the Jefferson Memorial, Lincoln Memorial, Korean War Veterans Memorial and the National World War II Memorial.

Georgia's delegation learned the history of many memorials from experienced tour guides, snapped photos along the Tidal Basin near the National Mall and at memorial parks, and read Father's Day messages left by family members at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial.

Arlington National Cemetery

Established in 1864, Arlington National Cemetery encompasses 639 acres and is the final resting place for more than 400,000 active-duty service members, veterans and their families.

Located within the cemetery is the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, where delegates attended a special wreath-laying ceremony honoring U.S. military members and veterans.



Apply for the 2025 Washington Youth Tour

The 2025 Washington Youth Tour is scheduled for June 13-20. This all-expenses-paid event will feature visits to and tours of some of the United States' most iconic and historic venues, such as George Washington's Mount Vernon, the Smithsonian Institution, Arlington National Cemetery and the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum. Contact Richard Heard, Director of Member Services at Rayle EMC to learn more about the 2025 tour and to apply.

Rayle EMC scholarship applications deadline Jan. 24



Rayle EMC General Manager Tony Griffin reminds high school and college students of the Jan. 24, 2025, deadline for scholarships that will be awarded to seven deserving students from Rayle EMC's service territory. The scholarships are open to anyone who has not yet completed a bachelor's degree and is attending, or planning to attend, a two- or four-year accredited university, college or technical school in Georgia within the next two years.

Application forms are available at schools located in Rayle EMC's service area and at all three co-op office locations. Applications may be submitted to the nearest co-op office, or they may be submitted to: Richard Heard, Rayle EMC, P.O. Box 1090, Washington, GA 30673.

Applications must be submitted to Rayle EMC no later than Jan. 24, 2025. The top two applications will be entered in Georgia EMC's statewide Walter Harrison Scholarship contest. Should an applicant be selected for a Walter Harrison Scholarship, the next qualifying student will receive the Rayle EMC scholarship.



2024 Washington Youth Tour delegates

Altamaha EMC, Lyons
Slade Holland
Brie Jackson-Buchanan
Noah Varn

Amicalola EMC, Jasper
Farah Jones
Tlung Mang
Addy Poole
Deacon Shull

Blue Ridge Mountain EMC, Young Harris
Kaylee Eubanks
Ansleigh Hardin
Mikala Souther

Canoochee EMC, Reidsville
Kaidence Allred
Destiny Hanna
Liam Porter
Will Wasson

Carroll EMC, Carrollton
Emily Dutton
Aanyah Lovett

Central Georgia EMC, Jackson
Dylan Brimberry
Ike Sanders

Coastal Electric Cooperative, Midway
Addison Brooks
Bianca Duncan
Michael Jones
Autumn McLean
Alli Piatt
Emily Rowe

Cobb EMC, Marietta
Sophia Joya
Kaitlin Long
Lily Meredith
Ashley Wallace

Colquitt EMC, Moultrie
Isaiah Lockhart

Rece Poole
Trinity Sherman

Coweta-Fayette EMC, Palmetto
Grace Faison
Adalynn Jordan

Diverse Power Corp., LaGrange
Savannah Joiner
Katie Swann
Claudia Walker

Flint Energies, Reynolds
Adeline Barbour
Harper Bishop
Reid Black
Jeremiah Walker

Georgia EMC, Tucker
Jeremy Best (Canoochee EMC)
Lydia O'Neill (Jackson EMC)

Grady EMC, Cairo
Jacob Bennett
Kaiden Gibbs
Heali Patel

GreyStone Power Corp., Hiram
Gini Amaeze
Alexandria Criner
Sade Kangas
Aniyah Springer

Habersham EMC, Clarkesville
Everett Rudeseal
Chesney Tanksley

Hart EMC, Hartwell
Raegan Duncan
Haylee Vu

Irwin EMC, Ocilla
Shelby Branch
Thomas Holt

Jackson EMC, Jefferson
Alvaro Saldarriaga Arcila

Mason Bass
Grace Koster
Jabez Melaku

Jefferson Energy Cooperative, Wrens
Brandon Harrison
Chasade Norris
Judi Vasquez
Nya Williams

Middle Georgia EMC, Vienna
Kathryn Akin
Ben Howard
Sam Sampson
Ruby Witt

Mitchell EMC, Camilla
Bryant Collins
Sam Summerlin

North Georgia EMC, Dalton
Emalee Collins
Brody Haddock

Ocmulgee EMC, Eastman
Brynnon Bell
Adriana Randall
Scout Totty

Oconee EMC, Dudley
Bennett Karoly
Coleman Rogers

Okefenokee REMC, Nahunta
Chase Grantham
Owen Hopkins
Brittany Reyez
Karis Richardson

Planters EMC, Millen
Laura Gayle Dailey
Sam Kyzer
Ann Parker

Rayle EMC, Washington
Andee Claire Dellinger
Kaylee Grimaud

Hannah Grace Moon

Satilla REMC, Alma
Hannah Bonvechio
Gabby Burns
Christina Davis
Rhianna Lewis

Sawnee EMC, Cumming
Sapna Annambhotla

Slash Pine EMC, Homerville
William Bates
Madaline Bennett

Snapping Shoals EMC, Covington
Ethan Barlay
Ryan Bell
Hannah Mock
Shelby Moore

Southern Rivers Energy, Barnesville
Amy Boggs
Joanna Hernandez

Sumter EMC, Americus
Maggie Irvin
Ila Johnson
Trey Stewart
Olivia Van der Walt

Tri-County EMC, Gray
Nichole Botsoe
Delaney Johnston

Upton EMC, Thomaston
Lily Baity

Walton EMC, Monroe
Matthew Bovenkerk
Rahul Mohanty
Hailey Mott
Vy Nguyen

Washington EMC, Sandersville
Chloe Bray
Trojan Stapleton