



Dear Student,

Thank you for your interest in the 2020 FreeState Electric Cooperative Youth Tour essay contest. This packet contains application details and the components you will need to apply.

The essay topic is listed on the Essay Form. **Please follow the directions carefully.**

The top five finalists on the written portion of the competition will be invited to an interview with the youth tour coordinator. Following the interviews, we will name four winners who will receive all-expense-paid trips.

- **Youth Tour trip is June 18-25, 2020**
- **Youth Leadership Camp is July 10-16, 2020**

The fifth-place finisher will be named an alternate for either trip. The alternate would be asked to step in if another student was not able to attend their trip.

Again, thank you for your interest in the Youth Tour. Good luck writing your essay, and we hope to see you in person for the interview process!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sarah Farlee". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Sarah Farlee  
FreeState Youth Tour Coordinator



## **Description**

Through FreeState Electric Cooperative's commitment to area youth, they will sponsor four students per year to attend two separate leadership opportunities.

- Electric Cooperative Youth Tour to Washington, D.C. - June 18-25, 2020
- Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp to Steamboat Springs, CO - July 10-16, 2020

Students on the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour will participate in leadership training, engage in one-on-one conversations with elected officials, jumpstart their national peer network and tour Washington, D.C.

At Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp, the campers participate in daily membership meetings where they established committees and elected a general manager and board of directors. Campers also had time to enjoy area activities including visits to Fish Creek Falls and Steamboat Springs, river rafting and participating in camp activities such as volleyball, swimming, and a talent show.

## **Eligibility**

A high school student enrolled in his/her 11th year (junior) whose parent(s) or guardian(s) receive electric service from FreeState Electric Cooperative, Inc., and reside in the FreeState service territory.

Students need to submit an application signed by a parent or guardian. The application consists of a completed application form, a student profile, and essay that will be received by FreeState Electric Cooperative by **4 p.m. Monday, February 10, 2020**. Applications can be submitted by mail, e-mail, or in person to either cooperative office.

### **Submit by mail to:**

Sarah Farlee  
FreeState Electric Co-op Youth Tour  
PO Box 70  
McLouth, KS 66054

### **Submit by e-mail to:**

Sarah.Farlee@freestate.coop

### **Submit in person to either cooperative district office.**

**McLouth Office**  
507 N. Union  
McLouth, KS 66054

**Topeka Office**  
1100 SW Auburn Rd.  
Topeka, KS 66615

## **Youth Tour Application**

Notice will be given to applicants when their application has been received by the cooperative via email.

### **The application will consist of:**

1. Completed application form
2. Completed Student Profile
3. Completed Essay

FreeState Electric Cooperative reserve the right to reject submissions solely by compliance with the submission guidelines.

### **To apply:**

1. Complete the application form with your contact information and parent and guardian signature.
2. Complete the student profile form with school information, activities, involvement, etc., and short answer questions.
3. Write an original, unpublished essay of at least 500 words and not exceeding 1,500 words on the topic given.

### **Entries may be disqualified for any of the following reasons:**

1. Submitting an application late.
2. Exceeding word count limits.
3. Including vulgar, offensive, plagiarized, or previously-published content.
4. Including missing, misleading, or false information on any portion of the application.
5. Not adhering to any of the eligibility rules set

## **Youth Tour Selection**

All completed applications received by FreeState Electric will be reviewed by the Youth Tour Coordinator and scored by one additional judge.

Essays will be reviewed and scored anonymously. All applicants will be scored if submitted on time.

The top-five scoring applications will be interviewed by the youth tour coordinator, and the top-four applicants will be awarded opportunities to participate in the youth tour activities. The fifth applicant will serve as an alternate in the case an awarded trip cannot be taken.

Applicants not scoring in the top-five will be notified.

- a) All decisions are final.
- b) The top-four applicants will be determined winners.
- c) The top two applicants will have their choice of trips. They may choose a Washington, D.C. trip, or a trip to Steamboat Springs, Colorado. If the top-scorers do not choose Washington, D.C., the third and fourth finisher would have the option.

## Youth Tour Scoring

### Application scoring:

1. Application form – 5 points (scored by the youth tour coordinator)
2. Student profile – 15 points (scored by the youth tour coordinator)
3. Essay – 80 points (scored anonymously)

The application is scored by completeness. Student profile is judged on the following criteria:

<b>Completeness</b>	Is the information filled out completely and legible?
<b>Writing</b>	Does the profile have a variety of vocabulary and sentence structures, appropriate tone, and correct grammar and spelling?
<b>Involvement</b>	Does the student show initiative in school and community? Do they take an active role in leadership, or convey the desire to develop their leadership skills?

Essays are judged on the following criteria:

<b>Comprehension</b>	How well does the essay reflect a thorough comprehension of the essay's topic and issues?
<b>Organization</b>	Does the essay's content follow a logical and easily understood progression? Does corroborating evidence support the essay's main point(s)?
<b>Creativity</b>	Does the essay use diverse resources, approaches, or points of view?
<b>Writing</b>	Does the essay contain concise language, a variety of vocabulary and sentence structures, appropriate tone, and correct grammar and spelling?
<b>Conclusion</b>	Do the conclusions follow logically from the essay's content? How compelling are these conclusions?

The top-five applicants will be asked to interview, which is worth an additional 50 points that will be added to the written application score to determine the final score. Interviews will be judged on:

1. Poise and self-control
2. Speaking ability
3. Responses to questions
4. Overall Presentation
5. Attitude

### **Obligation of Winners**

FreeState sponsors the winners on an all-expense-paid trip. This means the cooperative does have a few expectations from each winner.

Each winner and their parent/guardian will sign an acceptance agreement that outlines expectations of each student.

In addition to representing the cooperative and your school and community as your best self while traveling, we ask that you:

1. Give an in-person 3 to 5-minute review of the experience. The presentation will be done at the July board of trustee meeting which is typically the fourth Wednesday of the month.
2. Provide the cooperative with photographs of the trip.
3. Provide a written summary of the trip for publication in cooperative communications.
4. We may ask past winners to help recruit applications.
5. The top-four essays may be posted on [www.freestate.coop](http://www.freestate.coop) or printed in *Kansas Country Living*. Typically we print an excerpt from the essay.

## Essay Guidelines

### **Topic: How can cooperatives engage the next generation of members?**

*Young adult members represent the future of America's electric cooperatives. They are driving change.*

*Younger members will form the core of cooperative membership—and cooperative leadership—for the next several decades. To maintain the member focus that is core to the cooperative business model, electric co-ops must adapt to the values, interests and service expectations of this essential member group. How would you engage younger members, and what can FreeState do to make sure our younger generation not only understands the cooperative business model but is willing to participate through voting at annual meetings and taking on leadership roles.*

Follow these guidelines when submitting your essay. Please follow directions.

1. Submit an essay of at least 500 words, but not exceeding 1500.
2. Work should be original and unpublished.
3. Please submit in 12-point font, double-spaced. (*Times New Roman or Arial preferred*)
4. **Do not put your name on your essay.**
5. Your essay should be accompanied by the Essay Form in this packet.
6. You should use at least two references, properly cited.

**Deadline is 4 p.m. Monday, February 10, 2020**



# YOUTH TOUR APPLICATION FORM

**Please submit this completed form to FreeState Electric Cooperative by February 10, 2020.**

Selection will be made without regard to the applicant's race, color, ethnicity, religion, gender, or physical handicap. Four winners will be selected. Selection is based on the completed application, student profile, and essay. The top-five scoring applications will be asked in for a finalist interview. Winners will be notified via phone or email. You will also be notified if you are not selected.

Applicant Name (Please Print) \_\_\_\_\_

Applicant Date of Birth \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

Applicant year in school: Junior

Applicant Permanent Mailing Address

\_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

Applicant High School

\_\_\_\_\_

Estimated GPA \_\_\_\_\_

Gender: Male Female Other

Applicant Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Is this a cell phone? Y/N Do we have permission to text you? Y/N Y N

T-Shirt Size: S M L XL XXL Other

Applicant Email \_\_\_\_\_

Trip t-shirts are provided by the state organization if you are selected as a winner

Please provide an email address you check regularly.  
 We provide information during the summer months, as well.

Parent/Guardian Name \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Email \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Applicants social media, if applicable

Twitter: \_\_\_\_\_

Facebook: \_\_\_\_\_

Instagram: \_\_\_\_\_

SnapChat: \_\_\_\_\_

I certify that this information is true, complete and accurate. I authorize release of information to confirm and/or verify this application. I further authorize release of my name in connection with announcements of Youth Tour awards in the event that I am selected to be a FreeState Electric Cooperative, Inc., Youth Tour or Youth Leadership Camp recipient.

Applicant Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

I hereby give permission for for (student name) \_\_\_\_\_ to enter the Youth Tour competition.

Parent/Guardian Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

For Office Use Only \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

Contact: Sarah Farlee  
 sarah.farlee@freestate.coop  
 1-800-794-1989



# YOUTH TOUR STUDENT PROFILE

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Please answer the following questions as completely as possible. You may add more paper if necessary, or you may retype the questions and answers on a separate piece of paper, or in a new document. If using additional pages, please label your document "Student Profile." It is important to note there are no right or wrong answers. **Just tell us about YOU!**

Applicant Name (Please Print) \_\_\_\_\_

1. **List** any activities in which you have participated:

2. **List** any leadership roles (offices) you have held, and in what organizations:

3. Tell us about any awards and/or honors you have received:

**YOUTH TOUR STUDENT PROFILE** Applicant Name (Please Print) \_\_\_\_\_

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4. Tell us about your hobbies, talents, or special interests:

5. How would this experience help you achieve your future goals?

6. Do you consider yourself a leader? Why or why not?

7. What makes you the ideal candidate to represent this cooperative?



# YOUTH TOUR ESSAY FORM

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Applicant Name (Please Print) \_\_\_\_\_

## **Topic: How can cooperatives engage the next generation of members?**

Young adult members represent the future of America's electric cooperatives. They are driving change.

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