2023 Youth Tour Essay Contest Winners Announced

Ozark Border Electric Cooperative's Youth Tour Essay Contest challenges high school juniors to write an essay for the chance to win one of two all-expenses paid trips to the Rural Electric Youth Tour in Washington, D.C. The seven-day tour provides an action-filled week, offering students opportunities to gain experience firsthand what it is like to be involved in politics, leadership positions and community service.

Two second-place winners receive a trip to Jefferson City for the Cooperative Youth Conference & Leadership Experience (CYCLE). The three-day program includes nationally known speakers and a day at the state Capitol. The conference shows students more about electric cooperatives, Missouri government and teaches leadership skills. Six finalists also receive a cash prize.

The two high school juniors chosen to represent OBEC at the 2023 Youth Tour in Washington D.C.: Seth Weeks – Van Buren High School and Alexander Carson - Westwood Baptist Academy. CYCLE delegates: Alisha Buchanan and Alissa Stanley – Twin Rivers High School. Finalists earning a cash prize: Christina Creason, Cole Nash, Austin Anderson – Puxico High School, Jorja McCollough, James Hawley, and Cheyenne Lamborn from Westwood Baptist Academy.

Cash Prize Winners



Christina Creason Puxico High School



Jorja McCollough Westwood Baptist Academy



James Hawley Westwood Baptist Academy



Cole Nash Puccico High School

Washington D.C. Trip Winners



Seth Weeks Van Buren High School



Alexander Carson Westwood Baptist Academy

CYCLE Trip Winners



Alisha Buchanan Twin Rivers High School



Alissa Stanley Twin Rivers High School



Austin Anderson Puccico High School



Cheyenne Lamborn Westwood Baptist Academy