



YOUTH TOUR 2026

Make Your Mark



California & Oregon students enjoying the 2025 Washington Youth Tour trip

**Application and letter to elected representative are due by 12:00 pm-noon-Thursday, November 13th, 2025.
See inside for more details.**

Want to visit Washington D.C. this summer?

Imagine winning an all-expense-paid trip to Washington, D.C. with high school juniors from across the country. Picture yourself touring the Lincoln Memorial, the Vietnam Memorial and many other historical landmarks like the National Cathedral or Arlington National Cemetery.

Each summer, the Washington Youth Tour brings together 1500 talented and ambitious high school juniors from across the country to experience our nation's capital and further develop their leadership skills.



Four high school juniors will be selected to represent AEC.

Interested? It's easy - Just meet the following requirements:

Application Requirements

Each applicant must:

- ▶ Live in or attend school in Anza Electric's service area.
- ▶ Be a high school junior.
- ▶ Complete a Youth Tour application.
- ▶ Write a composition.
- ▶ Participate in an interview with a panel of judges.

Composition Requirements

Each applicant must:

- ▶ Write a letter to one elected representative (see names & addresses listed in the packet)
- ▶ Pick [one](#) topic of your choice:
 - An issue that affects our community that you feel this particular individual may be able to assist with. [OR](#)
 - Discuss an idea that would help bring jobs to the area.
- ▶ Must be written in correct letter format.
- ▶ Must include your return mailing address as these may be submitted to the elected representative.
- ▶ Font size must not be larger than size 12.
- ▶ Letter must be typewritten.

Have a teacher proofread your work!

[This is very important as incorrect grammar and punctuation count against you.](#)

Anza Electric Cooperative, Inc.

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1. Complete an application
2. Write a letter to **one** elected representative of your choice. See names and addresses on next page.
3. Submit application and composition/letter to AEC office by 12:00 p.m. - Noon - Thursday, November 13th, 2025.
4. Participate in an interview with a panel of judges. See next page for list of questions you will be asked. Come to the interview prepared to answer the questions without any notes.

Composition Requirements

Each applicant must:

- ▶ Write a letter to one elected representative (see names & addresses below).
- ▶ Pick one topic of your choice:
 - An issue that affects our community that you feel this particular individual may be able to assist with. OR
 - Discuss an idea that would help bring jobs to the area.
- ▶ Must be written in correct letter format.
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- ▶ Font size must not be larger than size 12.
- ▶ Letter must be typewritten.

Have a teacher proofread your work!

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Remember -
Composition/letter and
application
must be in the
Anza Electric office -
58470 Hwy 371,
Anza, CA
no later than
12:00 p.m. - Noon
Thursday,
November 13th,
2025.

Consider bringing your
composition/letter and
application by the Co-op
office earlier than
11/13/25.

Things happen. Printers run out of ink and any number of other things can take place, so get your composition/letter and application in early. That way you know you're covered.



Write a letter to one of the following representatives:

Congressman Raul Ruiz
445 E. Florida Ave, 2nd Floor
Hemet, CA 92543

County Supervisor Chuck Washington
37600 Sky Canyon Drive, #505
Murrieta, CA 92563

Senator Lola Smallwood-Cuevas
1021 O Street, Suite 6530
Sacramento, CA 95814

Assemblymember Kate Sanchez
State Capitol
PO Box 942849
Sacramento, CA 94249-0071

Senator Alex Padilla
331 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington D.C. 20510

Interview Questions:

Come to the interview prepared to answer these questions without any notes. We'll get in touch with you with the interview date, time and place. It will most likely take place in mid-December.

1. What are your goals for the future? Where do you see yourself in 5 years? 10 years?
2. If you could sit down and talk to anyone (living or deceased) in Washington D.C., who would it be and why?
3. What is the most important thing your parents or grandparents have taught you and how has that helped you?
4. What particular strengths do you have which would make you a good individual to send on the tour?
5. There are seven cooperative principles that Anza Electric Cooperative and other cooperatives abide by. In reading the information you've been given, what is one of the cooperative principles?
6. Can you expand on the definition of the principle?
7. Who is inspiring to you and why?

The Seven Cooperative Principles (1-4)

VOLUNTARY AND OPEN MEMBERSHIP

Cooperatives are voluntary organizations open to all persons able to use their services and willing to accept the responsibilities of membership, without gender, social, racial, political or religious discrimination.

1

DEMOCRATIC MEMBER CONTROL

Cooperatives are democratic organizations controlled by their members, who actively participate in setting policies and making decisions. The elected representatives are accountable to the membership. In primary cooperatives, members have equal voting rights (one member, one vote) and cooperatives at other levels are organized in a democratic manner.

2

MEMBERS' ECONOMIC PARTICIPATION

Members contribute equitably to, and democratically control, the capital of their cooperative. At least part of that capital is usually the common property of the cooperative. Members usually receive limited compensation, if any, on capital subscribed as a condition of membership. Members allocate surpluses for any or all of the following purposes: developing the cooperative, possibly by setting up reserves, part of which at least would be indivisible; benefitting members in proportion to their transactions with the cooperative; and supporting other activities approved by the membership.

3

AUTONOMY AND INDEPENDENCE

Cooperatives are autonomous, self-help organizations controlled by their members. If they enter into agreements with other organizations, including governments, or raise capital from external sources, they do so on terms that ensure democratic control by their members and maintain their cooperative autonomy.

4

The Seven Cooperative Principles (5-7)

EDUCATION, TRAINING AND INFORMATION

Cooperatives provide education and training for their members, elected representatives, managers, and employees so that they can contribute effectively to the development of their cooperatives. They inform the general public, particularly young people and opinion leaders, about the nature and benefits of cooperation.

5

COOPERATION AMONG COOPERATIVES

Cooperatives serve their members most effectively and strengthen the cooperative movement by working together through local, national, regional and international structures.

6

CONCERN FOR COMMUNITY

While focusing on member needs, cooperatives work for the sustainable development of their communities through policies accepted by their members.

7

For more information about electric cooperatives and the Washington Youth Tour, please check out the following website:

www.nreca.coop

Washington Youth Tour Contest Application

IMPORTANT: Please return this completed form to the Anza Electric office no later than 12:00 noon, Thursday, November 13th, 2025 to be eligible for the competition. Enclose your letter/composition with this form. ***Please*** print clearly.

NAME: _____ AGE: _____ PHONE NO. _____

STREET ADDRESS: _____ STUDENT'S CELL # _____

MAILING ADDRESS: _____ PARENT'S/GUARDIAN'S CELL # _____

STUDENT'S E-MAIL ADDRESS: _____

PARENT'S/GUARDIAN'S E-MAIL: _____

NAME OF SCHOOL: _____

EXTRA CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES _____

COMMUNITY/CIVIC INVOLVEMENT: _____

SPECIAL HONORS YOU'VE RECEIVED: _____

FAVORITE SUBJECTS IN SCHOOL: _____

HOBBIES: _____ CAREER GOALS: _____

NAME(S) OF PARENT(S)/GUARDIAN(S) _____

Who or what would you most like to visit in Washington D.C. and why? (Do some research)

CONTESTANT'S

SIGNATURE: _____

PARENT'S/GUARDIAN(S)

SIGNATURE: _____

Anza Electric Cooperative, Inc.



Important Dates To Remember

Application

& Composition/letter due.....12 p.m. (Noon) - Thursday, November 13th, 2025

Interviews *(Participants will be notified of interview*

date by mail, email or phone).....December 2025

Winners Announced December 2025

Orientation Meeting*March or April 2026

Anza Electric chaperone/students depart for Portland.....June 14th, 2026*

All chaperones and students

depart for Washington D.C.June 15th, 2026*

Return to Portland and then California. June 21st, 2026*

Youth Tour contest winners may be asked to speak to the Board of Directors about their trip after they return and at Anza Electric's Annual Membership Meeting in 2026.

* Tentative dates



951-763-4333

e-mail: aec@anzaelectric.org

www.anzaelectric.org