



# YOUTH TOUR

## 2024-2025

**Win a trip to Washington, D.C. in 2025!**

**They call it “the trip of a lifetime” and you could be on it!**

Co-Mo Connect Powered by Co-Mo Electric Cooperative will sponsor four students to attend the Youth Tour trip in 2025, a whirlwind adventure in Washington, D.C., with more than 100 fellow Missourians and 1,500 high school juniors from across the country. All high school juniors residing or attending school in Co-Mo’s service territory who are not children or grandchildren of a Co-Mo board member or employee are eligible.

Do you want to win a trip to Washington, D.C.? You can earn your spot by entering a project that answers the contest prompt in this Youth Tour packet! For more information, go to [www.co-mo.coop](http://www.co-mo.coop) and click on Youth Tour.



Contact Patrick Wood at [pwood@co-mo.coop](mailto:pwood@co-mo.coop) if you have questions!





# YOUTH TOUR 2024-2025

## - All entries must be received by Oct. 18, 2024 -

Choose a character from a movie, book, or TV show who demonstrates strong leadership qualities. Your task is to analyze this character's leadership characteristics, exploring how they motivate and inspire others, make difficult decisions, and what you can learn from them as you aspire to be a leader yourself.

Consider the following:

- **Leadership Characteristics:** What leadership characteristics does the character you chose exhibit? How do these characteristics shape their interactions with others and influence the outcomes of their decisions? Provide examples to illustrate these points.
- **Decision-Making:** Leadership often involves making tough decisions, sometimes with significant consequences. Analyze how the character handles these moments.
- **Challenges and Growth:** Every leader faces challenges that test their abilities. Discuss the obstacles the character encounters and how these moments contribute to their growth as a leader.
- **Impact on Others:** Consider the broader impact of the character's leadership on the world around them. How do their actions shape or influence other characters? them. How do their actions shape or influence other characters?

### Write an essay:

Using between 500 and 750 words, answer the above prompt to demonstrate a thorough understanding of the topic. Essays should be typed. Attach a separate sheet of paper to the front of the essay with your name, address, telephone number, parent or guardian's name, and name of your school. Essays will be judged for creativity, accuracy, clarity, technical soundness (grammar, punctuation, etc.), and the level of independent research. Essays should be emailed directly to [pwood@co-mo.coop](mailto:pwood@co-mo.coop) or submitted by your teacher.

### Make a video:

Create a video that is no less than three and no more than five minutes that answers the above questions to demonstrate a thorough understanding of the topic. Videos should be turned in via link (YouTube, Vimeo, Google Drive, etc.). Along with the video, you will need to submit your name, address, telephone number, parent or guardian's name, and name of your school. Videos will be judged for creativity, accuracy, clarity, technical soundness (lighting, sound, etc.), and the level of independent research. If you're not submitting your project through your school, you must email the video link to [pwood@co-mo.coop](mailto:pwood@co-mo.coop).

### Rules and Regulations

- All entries must be received by Oct. 18, 2024. No late projects will be judged.
- All projects must be submitted by your teacher or sent by you to [pwood@co-mo.coop](mailto:pwood@co-mo.coop).
- To be eligible, students must be juniors currently residing in or attending school in Co-Mo's service area. They must also be living in Co-Mo's service area at the time of the trip. Students cannot be the children, grandchildren, or sibling of a current Co-Mo board member or employee.
- All submissions become the property of Co-Mo Connect Powered by Co-Mo Electric Cooperative and will not be returned.





# SCORING INFORMATION

**- All entries must be received by Oct. 18, 2024 -**

Your project (essay or video) will be scored using this guide. If you have questions about the guide, please ask your teacher or contact Patrick Wood at [pwood@co-mo.coop](mailto:pwood@co-mo.coop).

## Addresses the Prompt in an Understandable Manner – 20 Points

Your essay or video needs to address the prompt clearly. The project should be easy to follow and fully answer the prompt.

## Grammatically Correct/Technically Sound – 20 Points

If you choose to write an essay for your project, it should be grammatically correct and include a citation page. If you decide to create a video, the video should be of good quality with adequate editing.

## Independent Research – 20 Points

Students need to showcase research in their projects. Each essay/video should consist of research and evidence that justify their choice of inspirational leader.

## Creativity – 40 Points

Make your project unique! Everyone will work from the same prompt, but only you have your distinctive perspective, creativity, and imagination. Make your project memorable and something that will truly stand out from the other entries.







# YOUTH TOUR TIMELINE

**- All entries must be received by Oct. 18, 2024 -**

## August/September

- Co-Mo Connect announces Youth Tour program and visits schools promoting participation.

## October

- Youth Tour entries are due October 18, 2024.
- Three judges from neighboring cooperatives will score all projects. Each judge will score projects based on the guides in this packet, and the scores will be averaged to provide the final score per project. The scoring of the judges is final.
- Nine Youth Tour Finalists will be announced on November 1, 2024.

## November

- Finalists will visit the Co-Mo Connect Tipton Office for a tour of the facility and interview with Youth Tour judges on November 6 or November 7. (Finalists will select which day works best for them.)
- Four Youth Tour Trip Winners will be announced on November 12. The winners will be selected based on the scores of the final projects combined with the score from the interviews. The other five finalists will receive \$200.
- There will be a Youth Tour reception dinner on November 21 for the four winners where they will present their winning Youth Tour entry.

**The 2025 Youth Tour Trip will be**  
**June 15 - 21, 2025**

