



YOUTH TOUR

2025-2026

Win a trip to Washington, D.C. in 2026!

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 2026, 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 and click on Youth Tour.



Contact Patrick Wood at pwood@co-mo.coop if you have questions!



YOUTH TOUR 2025-2026

- All entries must be received by Oct. 15, 2025 -

In 2026, the United States of America will celebrate its 250th anniversary. To honor this milestone, this year's Youth Tour contest invites you to step into the role of **America's Storyteller**.

Your challenge is to find a creative way to share what you believe makes America truly special. Storytelling comes in many forms, including writing, art, poetry, music, film, podcasting, and more. Choose the medium that inspires you most, and use it to highlight the qualities, values, moments in history, or the things that you believe make America stand out as a great nation for all.

Essay

Write an essay of 500–750 words in response to the prompt. If you include references or cite other works, be sure to provide a properly formatted Works Cited page. All essay entries must be grammatically correct and carefully proofread before submission.

Art

Create a piece of art in the medium of your choice that creatively responds to the prompt. When finished, submit a clear photo of your artwork along with a brief written description explaining how your piece reflects and addresses the prompt.

Poem/Song

Write a poem or song that captures your response to the prompt. Once complete, please submit the poem or song along with a brief written description explaining how your poem/song reflects and addresses the prompt. If you are doing a song, and can perform the song, please include a video or audio file with your entry. Song parodies are accepted as long as they address the prompt.

Video

Create a video that is no less than three and no more than five minutes that responds to the Youth Tour prompt. In the entry form, please include the link to view the video via YouTube, Vimeo, Google Drive, etc. If you submit your video entry via Google Drive, keep an eye on your email as we may need to request that you provide permission access to view the video for the judges.

Podcast

Create an interview/storyteller style podcast that addresses the prompt. Audio files should be no less than three minutes and no more than five minutes. In the entry form, please include the link to view the audio file. If you submit your entry via Google Drive, keep an eye on your email as we may need to request that you provide permission access to view the video for the judges.

Other

If you have a creative idea on how to answer the prompt that is not listed above, please email Patrick Wood at pwood@co-mo.coop. We are open to fun and creative ideas! In most cases, you will also be asked to provide a brief description explaining how your entry reflects and addresses the prompt.

***All entries will be cross referenced for AI use. Use of AI that is not noted in the entry submission will be grounds for disqualification.**





SCORING INFORMATION

- All entries must be received by Oct. 15, 2025 -

Your entry will be scored using this guide. If you have questions, please ask your teacher or contact Patrick Wood at pwood@co-mo.coop.

Addresses the Prompt in an Understandable Manner – 30 Points

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

Independent Research – 20 Points

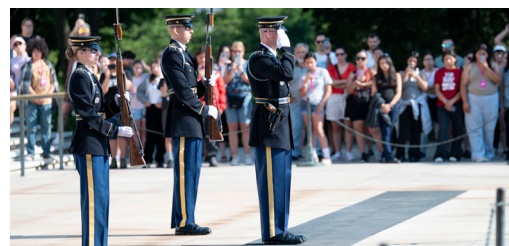
Students need to showcase research in their projects. Each entry should consist of research and evidence that justify their choices.

Creativity – 50 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.

Rules and Regulations

- All entries must be received by Oct. 15, 2025. No late projects will be judged.
- All projects must be submitted using the link at www.co-mo.coop/youth-tour
- 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.





YOUTH TOUR TIMELINE

- All entries must be received by Oct. 15, 2025 -

August/September

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

October

- Youth Tour entries are due October 15, 2025.
- 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 October 30, 2025.

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.
- Four Youth Tour Trip Winners will be announced on November 10. 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 a \$200 Visa gift card.
- There will be a Youth Tour reception dinner on November 20 for the four winners where they will present their winning Youth Tour entry.

The 2025 Youth Tour Trip will be
June 14 - 20, 2026

