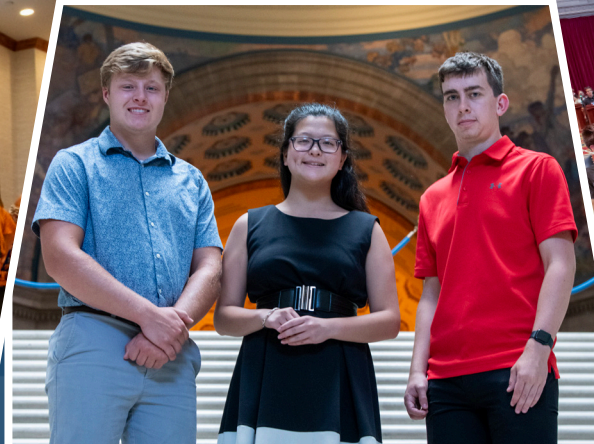




## Win a leadership experience in Jefferson City!

*Co-Mo Connect Powered by Co-Mo Electric Cooperative is sponsoring five students to attend CYCLE, a three-day leadership conference held annually in Jefferson City. All high school sophomores 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. To enter, students are asked to enter a project that answers the contest prompt. More information on the next page!*



**Essays due on March 22, 2024**

## **Join other young future leaders on a once-in-a-lifetime experience!**

C.Y.C.L.E is a three-day conference held in Jefferson City each summer. In attendance are some of the brightest young leaders in Missouri. The program teaches students about electric cooperatives, leadership skills, and the Missouri state government. It includes nationally known speakers, a state Capitol day, and other fun activities.

Co-Mo Connect Powered by Co-Mo Electric Cooperative is considered a leader in the cooperative world for being one of the first cooperatives in the United States to open a broadband subsidiary. The success of Co-Mo Connect has opened doors for other cooperatives to see and decide to implement broadband services at their cooperatives. Many other cooperatives have used our model to start their broadband journey, and we are happy to have helped pave the way for rural Missourians to have high-speed Internet.

It takes courage, determination, and integrity to be a leader. There are leaders everywhere you go, from every period and every stretch of life. Cartoonist Walt Disney created the first animated cartoon with sound when he developed "Steamboat Willie," creating a new precedence for other cartoonists. James Cash Penney, or J.C. Penney, founded the modern-day retail store in his namesake. Starting as an employee, J.C.'s legacy continues as J.C. Penney is still a recognizable brand nationally.

What do these men have in common? They both lived in Missouri. Your task is to research and write about a famous Missourian who inspires you with their leadership abilities. What have they done that you aspire to emulate? What makes them a leader? What could other people learn from this person?

### **How to enter:**

#### **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 to the front of the essay a separate sheet of paper 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 [kbaldus@co-mo.coop](mailto:kbaldus@co-mo.coop) or submitted by your teacher.

### **Rules and Regulations**

- All entries must be received by March 22, 2024. No late projects will be judged.
- All projects must be submitted by your teacher or sent by you to [kbaldus@co-mo.coop](mailto:kbaldus@co-mo.coop).
- All high school sophomores currently residing in or attending school in Co-Mo's service area and who will be living in Co-Mo's service area at the time of the trip who are not children or grandchildren of a current Co-Mo board member or employee are eligible.
- All submissions become property of Co-Mo Connect Powered by Co-Mo Electric Cooperative and will not be returned.
- Five winners will be chosen to attend CYCLE Each finalist attending CYCLE will be given \$25 in spending cash. In the event of the trip to Jefferson City is cancelled, CYCLE winners will be gifted \$200 to use for school/college as recompense for the cancellation of the trip.
- The decision of the judges is final.