Black Hills Electric Cooperative, Inc.
A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

# 2027 Youth Tour

Black Hills Electric Cooperative will sponsor one lucky high school student on an all-expense-paid trip to Washington, D.C. South Dakota Rural Electric Association (SDREA) will coordinate the trip for the South Dakota students.

Tour highlights include the Lincoln Memorial, Washington Monument, U.S. Capitol, Ford's Theatre, Arlington National Cemetery, Mount Vernon, Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, Iwo Jima Statue, National Archives, U.S. Supreme Court, and the Vietnam Veterans Memorial among other exciting sites. Students will also participate in a briefing with South Dakota's congressional delegation.

**Youth Tour Dates:** June 17 – 23, 2027

**Requirements:**

- Complete this form by typing or printing; attach additional sheets if necessary.
- Include a one-page summary of your volunteer activities, leadership roles, and goals for the future.
- Write a 250-word essay on the following topic:
  "Why are you the ideal candidate for the 2027 Youth Tour, and what you expect to learn?"
- Include a recent photo to be used for publications such as Cooperative Connections, our website, and social media.
- Must be a current high school sophomore, junior, or senior and a dependent of a Black Hills Electric Cooperative member.
- Must be at least 16 years of age at the time of the tour.

**Applications must be received by Black Hills Electric Cooperative no later than 5:00 p.m. on December 30, 2026.**

**Return completed application to:**

Black Hills Electric Cooperative
c/o Shannan Steele
PO Box 792
Custer, SD 57730

or

shannans@bhec.coop

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# Youth Tour Application

**Full Name:** _____

As it appears on your driver's license, including middle name.

**Date of Birth:** _____ **Gender:** ☐ Male ☐ Female ☐ Prefer Not to Answer

Must be at least 16 years of age by June 17, 2027.

**Address:** _____

**City:** _____ **State:** _____ **Zip:** _____

**Phone Number:** _____

**Black Hills Electric Cooperative Account Number:** _____

**Parent(s) or Guardian(s):** _____

**High School:** _____

**School Grade for the 2026 – 2027 School Year:** ☐ Sophomore ☐ Junior ☐ Senior

**T-shirt Size:** _____

**Student's Signature:** _____ **Date:** _____

**Parent's Signature:** _____ **Date:** _____

All Youth Tour entries are confidential and will be reviewed by the cooperative or a cooperative selection committee. Applications will not be considered unless the above required information is complete.