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**SANTEE ELECTRIC  
 COOPERATIVE NEWS**

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A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

## A trip of a lifetime!



**HAPPY NEW YEAR!** I hope everyone had a wonderful Thanksgiving and a very Merry Christmas!

It's been quite a while since I have had a chance to talk to you, and I have an important program and deadline to tell you about today.

In the late 1950's, then Senator Lyndon Johnson suggested to a National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) group that we should promote opportunities for our young people to visit their capital. NRECA took that idea and ran with it, and today Santee Electric is one of many electric cooperatives across our great nation that sends students each year on the Washington Youth Tour.

Each June, SEC sends three rising seniors from schools in our territory to join students from across our state and nation to Washington, DC. Together, they get an opportunity to see so many things that our nation's capital has to offer, and-of course-they learn about cooperatives. They also get to meet their local representatives and senators, and they make friends that last a lifetime!

The program has become so popular, that the Electric Cooperatives of South Carolina have expanded the group to also include a Cooperative Youth Summit that allows students to learn all about South Carolina government and our state capital. This is a very new program, but

it is already incredibly popular!

The application for both opportunities (one application covers both) can be found on [santee.org](http://santee.org), and the programs are available for juniors in high school. The application deadline is February 15. Washington Youth Tour will be June 15-20, and the Cooperative Youth Summit will be July 9-12. What a great opportunity for you during a week before you start your senior year!

The application asks for information about you, and it also asks for you to talk about extracurricular activities and what you know about cooperatives. The finalists will be chosen through an interview process. I know that sounds like a lot, but it truly is a wonderful experience. We have had an enormous amount of positive feedback from students we have sent over the years.

I encourage you to consider these excellent opportunities. Tell all of the juniors you know-friends, nieces, nephews, children, and grandchildren. The cost is paid by your cooperative. All you need to bring to the table is a great attitude and a desire to learn and make new friends. Visit [santee.org](http://santee.org) for more information. Have a great January!

**ROBERT G. ARDIS III**  
 President and Chief Executive Officer



Washington Youth Tour students meet Senator Tim Scott on the steps of the Capitol.

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