
NORRIS ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

TO: YOUTH TOUR PARTICIPANTS
SUBJECT: ITINERARY FOR YOUTH TO SPRINGFIELD

Youth to Springfield Itinerary, March 5th 2025:

Bus Departure from Norris Electric Cooperative	5:15 am
Pickup point at St. Anthony High School	5:50 am
Arrive at Springfield (President Abraham Lincoln Hotel)	8:00 am
Breakfast/Registration	8:15 – 8:45 am
Tour Capitol	9:15 to 10:15 am
Meet with Legislators Senate Floor – 3 rd Floor	10:15 – 11:00 am
Depart for President Abraham Lincoln Hotel	11:00 am
Co-op 101, Jim Miles	11:30 am
Lunch	12:00 to 1:00 pm
Youth Tour Interviews	1:00 – 1:50 pm
President Abraham Lincoln Museum	1:50 – 3:45 pm
Return to President Abraham Lincoln Hotel	3:45 pm
Head for Home Approximately	5:30 pm
Arrive at St. Anthony High School	7:30 pm
Arrive at Norris Electric Cooperative	8:05 pm



YOUTH DAY

2023

ILLINOIS



Association of Illinois
Electric Cooperatives

A Touchstone Energy® Member



STATE OF ILLINOIS

EXECUTIVE

DEPARTMENT

Proclamation

WHEREAS, for 50 years, the Electric and Telephone Cooperatives of Illinois have sponsored a paid tour of Washington, D.C., for approximately 70 outstanding Illinois high school students; and,

WHEREAS, the selection criteria for students to participate includes essay and youth leadership contests that are sponsored by member cooperatives; and,

WHEREAS, students from Illinois, along with over 1,800 contest winners from 45 other states, will have an opportunity to witness their federal government in action during the "Youth to Washington" tour taking place June 16-23, 2023; and,

WHEREAS, in an effort to provide a broader educational experience for students throughout the state, the Electric and Telephone Cooperatives of Illinois will also sponsor a trip to our state capitol March 29, 2023, for 300 contest finalists; and,

WHEREAS, these hard-working young men and women are the future of our state and country, and deserve to be commended for their achievements and their desire to learn more about their nation's governing bodies;

THEREFORE, I, JB Pritzker, Governor of the State of Illinois, do hereby proclaim March 29, 2023, as **Illinois Electric and Telephone Cooperatives Youth Day** in Illinois, and encourage all residents to support youth programs that assist those interested in learning about the United States government.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Illinois to be affixed.



Done at the Capitol in the City of Springfield,
this THIRTEENTH day of JANUARY, in
the Year of Our Lord, two thousand and
TWENTY-THREE, and of the State of Illinois,
two hundred and FIFTH.

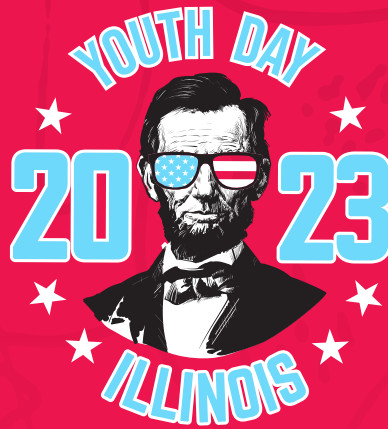
Alexis Bianchini
SECRETARY OF STATE

JB Pritzker
GOVERNOR



Association of Illinois
Electric Cooperatives

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March 29, 2023

8:00 Registration and Breakfast

President Abraham Lincoln Hotel & Conference Center

8:30 Welcome

Brooke Gross, AIEC

9:30 Meet with Legislators at Illinois State Capitol

11:30 Co-op 101

Brooke Gross, AIEC

12:00 Youth Day Luncheon

Michael Frerichs, Illinois State Treasurer

Abigail Meyer, 2022 NRECA Youth Leadership Council

Representative, Tri-County Electric Cooperative delegate

**1:30 Tour of Abraham Lincoln Presidential
Museum and Home**

4:00 Youth to Washington Interviews

President Abraham Lincoln Hotel

Capitol Fun Facts

22 million bricks were used in the construction of the Capitol.

When the Capitol first opened, the dome was illuminated with 144 gas jets. The carbon emitted from the gas jets made the dome black and invisible. It was cleaned in 1986 after 100 years.

The total cost of the current Capitol was
\$4,315,591.

Shelby Cullom was the first Governor to work in the new State Capitol in 1877.

President Barack Obama served as a State Senator in the State Capitol from 1997 to 2004.

The House and Senate chambers have 12.5 miles of electric and data cables under the floor.

The Illinois State Capitol was constructed between 1868 and 1888 and stands today as an irreplaceable architectural icon for the state.

Illinois has had six Capitol Buildings — one in Kaskaskia, three in Vandalia and two in Springfield.

The "lost" cornerstone of the State House was found in the fall of 1885 when workers were preparing the foundation for the east portico and was reburied until it was rediscovered in 1944.

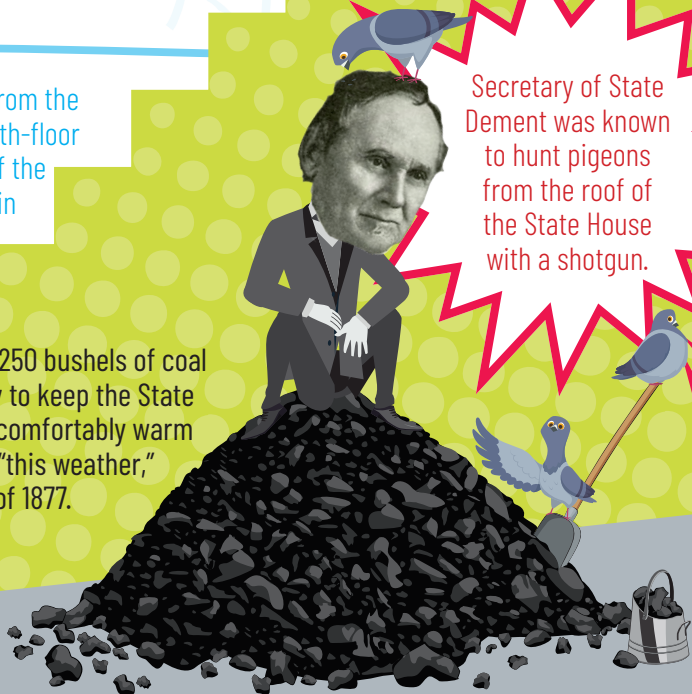
There are 110 steps from the first floor to the fourth-floor gallery. This is one of the grandest staircases in the United States.

It took 250 bushels of coal per day to keep the State House comfortably warm during "this weather," March of 1877.

Coal was mined briefly on the Capitol grounds.

At 361 feet tall, our capitol building is the tallest non-skyscraper classical capitol building, exceeding the height of the U.S. Capitol in Washington, D.C.

Secretary of State Dement was known to hunt pigeons from the roof of the State House with a shotgun.



Scavenger Hunt

There is a star in the marble tile at the base of the sculpture of a woman with open arms in the middle of the 1st floor rotunda. How many points does it have? What does each point represent?

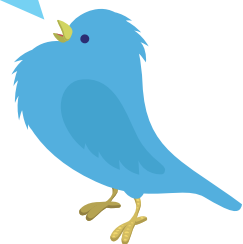
The sculpture represents "Illinois Welcoming the World." The plaster statue was first displayed in the Illinois Building at the 1893 Columbian Exposition. The sculptor, Julia M. Bracken, was asked to reproduce the statue in bronze for the Capitol. It was dedicated on May 16, 1895.



Every door knob in the Capitol has a matching imprint. What is that imprint?

A blue bird flies among us! Where is that blue bird located?

Hint: Try looking up!



• 8 points: a point for each letter in the word "Illinois"
• The State Seal
• A bluebird sits in the very middle of the dome when you look straight up.

**You could
be the next**

YLC

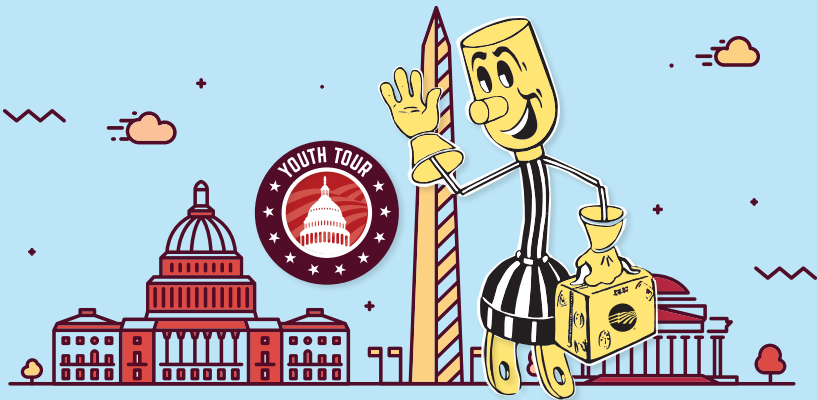
During Youth to Washington, an attendee is selected to represent the state of Illinois on the Youth Leadership Council, also known as the YLC. The YLC representative is chosen by his or her peers. There is one student chosen from each state.

The purpose of this council is to build leadership and public speaking skills, and to enhance the delegates' knowledge of the energy industry and the cooperative form of business. Members of the YLC play a critical role during National Rural Electric Cooperatives' (NRECA) annual meeting, having a hands-on experience with virtually every facet of the meeting, including the resolutions process

and helping our members communicate with their legislators. A YLC National Spokesperson is selected through a competitive speech to represent that YLC class. They are then given the opportunity to address the NRECA membership at their annual meeting.

YLC members leave the process more poised, confident and a better developed leader with a strong determination to improve their communities and make their country a better place. These students also make presentations at their state and local cooperative annual meetings. If you are chosen to represent your cooperative on the Youth to Washington Tour, please consider applying for the YLC position.

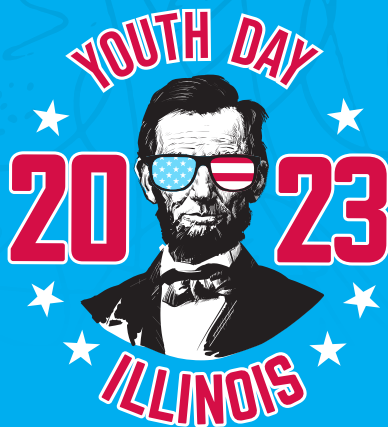
Pay your own way and travel to D.C. as a **Willie Wiredhand student.**



The Youth to Washington Tour could be your the highlight of your summer! We hope you will join in the fun. Each year, we have students who pay their own way, AKA Willie Wiredhand students.

We invite you to check out the toolbox we have put together to help raise the funds needed to participate. The website includes information on pricing, suggestions on community fundraising, deadlines, etc.

For more information, visit aiec.coop/wwwp



Participating Co-ops

Adams Electric Cooperative
Clay Electric Co-operative, Inc.
Clinton County Electric Cooperative, Inc.
Coles-Moultrie Electric Cooperative
Corn Belt Energy Corporation
Eastern Illini Electric Cooperative
Egyptian Electric Cooperative Association
EnerStar Electric Cooperative
Illinois Electric Cooperative
Jo-Carroll Energy, Inc.
M.J.M. Electric Cooperative, Inc.
Norris Electric Cooperative
Rural Electric Convenience Cooperative Co.
Shelby Electric Cooperative
SouthEastern Illinois Electric Cooperative, Inc.
Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative
Southwestern Electric Cooperative, Inc.
Spoon River Electric Cooperative
Tri-County Electric Cooperative, Inc.
Wayne-White Counties Electric Cooperative
Western Illinois Electrical Coop.
Adams Telephone Co-Op
Mid Century Communications Co-op
Wabash Communications Coop., Inc.



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