

## Cumberland Electric Membership Corporation

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### Mission Statement

Cumberland Electric Membership Corporation is committed to providing dependable, affordable electric service through the expertise and dedication of competent leadership and a well-trained and responsive workforce.

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## Co-op Concerns

*News from your community*

### Broadband is coming

Since 1938, Cumberland Electric Membership Corporation has provided safe, reliable and affordable electricity to its members in Stewart, Cheatham, Montgomery, Robertson and Sumner counties. Back then, farmers within this area recognized that there was a need for electricity, but no one was providing this service because it wasn't profitable. CEMC was formed in the late 1930s for the specific purpose of providing electricity to this rural area to meet this need. Today, CEMC provides electric service to nearly 100,000 electric accounts and owns and maintains more than 8,000 miles of electric distribution facilities throughout its service territory.

Fast forward to today, and, once again, rural Tennesseans are in need — but this time for high-speed internet service. We are excited to announce that CEMC plans to meet this need. The state of Tennessee passed the Broadband Accessibility Act in April 2017, allowing electric cooperatives in the state to offer retail broadband internet services to their members. Since that time, CEMC has diligently studied this opportunity and surveyed our membership to gauge interest. Following a very favorable response, CEMC's board of directors voted to create Cumberland Connect LLC to

provide these much-needed services to our membership. Cumberland Connect will provide high-speed

internet, phone and TV service over a state-of-the-art fiber optics network. CEMC and Cumberland Connect are excited about the opportunity to meet the pressing needs of our membership!

CEMC and Cumberland Connect are currently working on design and engineering for the fiber optic network. Although we wish that it could be constructed more quickly, we anticipate the construction of this entire network will take between five and six years due to the large scale of this network (more than 5,000 miles of fiber!). CEMC and Cumberland Connect are committed to construct this network and offer this high-speed internet, phone and TV service to all members over the next few years. We hope you'll join in our excitement, and we look forward to more opportunities in the near future to engage with you on a more local level. We greatly appreciate your patience and involvement in this monumental project.



**By Chris A. Davis**  
General Manager,  
Cumberland Electric  
Membership  
Corporation



# 2019 Washington Youth Tour



**F**uture leaders from Cumberland Electric Membership Corporation's service area spent a week in our nation's capital in June as delegates on the 2019 Washington Youth

Tour. John Adkins, Portland High School; Madisen Blackwell, Clarksville High School; Austin Burkhart, Stewart County High School; Addison Dorris, Portland High School; Chandler Edgin, Pleasant View Christian; Logan Livingston, Portland High School; Megan McFaul, Montgomery Central High School; Margaret Merchant, Jo Byrns High School; Shelby Plank, Jo Byrns High School; Matt Rosa, Portland High School; Nick Rye, Montgomery Central High School; and Ashley Thompson, Stewart County High School, were among 135 students from across Tennessee on the weeklong trip that began on Friday, June 14.

The annual event, sponsored by Cumberland Electric Membership Corporation and the Tennessee

Electric Cooperative Association, provides young leaders with an opportunity to explore the nation's capital, learn about government and cooperatives and develop their leadership skills. Students were selected

for the trip by writing short stories titled "Electric Cooperatives – Connecting Communities" that explain how co-ops provide communities with much more than electric power.

"The Youth Tour is a unique opportunity for these young people to experience history and public policy up-close and personal," says Stephanie Lobdell, CEMC community relations coordinator. "Tour delegates experience an exciting week visiting museums, monuments and other landmarks and learning about leadership, history and government."

"We take great pride in recognizing the best and brightest from across Tennessee," said Todd Blocker, vice president of member relations for the Tennessee



*At top, CEMC's 2019 Washington Youth Tour delegates visit Thomas Jefferson's Monticello. From left are Nick Rye, Michael Lobdell, John Adkins, Ashley Thompson, Madisen Blackwell, Megan McFaul, Chandler Edgin, Logan Livingston, Matt Rosa, Shelby Plank, Austin Burkhart, Margaret Merchant, Stephanie Lobdell and Julie Wallace. Above, delegates meet Rep. John Rose at the U.S. Capitol.*

Electric Cooperative Association and tour director. “By honoring their accomplishments through programs like the Washington Youth Tour, we show these future leaders that their co-op cares about the future. We want these young people to come home with a better understanding of their nation and new passion to serve their community.”

While in Washington, D.C., Tennessee’s Youth Tour delegates saw the White House and memorials to past presidents Thomas Jefferson, Abraham Lincoln and Franklin Delano Roosevelt as well as monuments honoring the sacrifices of veterans of World War II and the Vietnam and Korean Wars. During visits to the museums of the Smithsonian Institution, the touring Tennesseans saw and experienced natural, historical and artistic treasures. Other stops included historic homes of former presidents — George Washington’s Mount Vernon and Jefferson’s Monticello — as well as Ford’s Theatre and a boat cruise down the Potomac River. The group also paid a solemn and sobering visit to Arlington National Cemetery where the delegates laid a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknowns.

*On the cover: In front of the U.S. Capitol are, from left, back row: Shelby Plank, Chandler Edgin, Nick Rye, John Adkins, Michael Lobdell, Logan Livingston and Matt Rosa. Front row: Stephanie Lobdell, Margaret Merchant, Addison Dorris, Madisen Blackwell, Megan McFaul, Ashley Thompson, Austin Burkhardt and Julie Wallace.*

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*CEMC delegates meet Rep. Mark Green at the U.S. Capitol.*

# In their words

## CEMC delegates share their Youth Tour experiences

“I got to step out of my comfort zone and meet new friends and see new places and things. The sights I have seen on this trip are enlightening and inspiring. Looking at America’s past shows me that there’s hope with us as the leaders.”

– **Austin Burkhardt**, Stewart County High School

“The Washington Youth Tour was a great trip in the amount of things you manage to squeeze in with less than a week of time to do it all. Seeing the places of government that run our country and the many museums and exhibits from around the city is fascinating. Additionally, on top of it all, you’ll always get your daily step count.”

– **Logan Livingston**, Portland High School

“This trip has allowed me to make great new, lifelong friends. Not only have I made these friends, but I got the wonderful opportunity to make these friends in the city where history is truly made. It was an experience I will truly never forget.”

– **Shelby Plank**, Jo Byrns High School

“This trip has been so eye-opening by showing me sights I would maybe never have gotten the chance to see. I’ve made so many new friends and laughed so much along the way. I hope other students write this short story for the chance to experience it all.”

– **Ashley Thompson**, Stewart County High School

“Washington Youth Tour was truly one of the best experiences of my life. I was so grateful for the opportunity to talk to our government officials, and it was enlightening to hear their views on the current issues in our nation. I have formed many friendships that will last beyond this trip, and I have made memories that will last a lifetime. I am so thankful for CEMC for allowing me to learn and grow through this trip!”

– **Addison Dorris**, Portland High School

“This unforgettable experience opened up a lot of opportunities and inspiration. Seeing the history up close and not just from a textbook and meeting kids the same age as you and becoming friends make this trip a great opportunity that I hope others get to experience in the future.”

– **Margaret Merchant**, Jo Byrns High School

“This trip has let me see so many monuments and museums in our nation’s capital. I have made friendships that will last a lifetime and have met people from all across the country. I am so thankful for CEMC for giving me this opportunity to go on this trip of a lifetime.”

– **Megan McFaul**, Montgomery Central High School

“The Washington Youth Tour was an incredible experience not only because of touring our nation’s most important pieces of history but the friendships and memories I have made as well. I was also able to meet people from all over the U.S. and get out of my comfort zone. This trip was nothing short of amazing in every aspect, and I am so thankful that I could be a part of it.”

– **Madisen Blackwell**, Clarksville High School

# Local students visit nation's capital on Washington Youth Tour

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For many, the highlight of the trip was hearing from Holocaust survivor Ms. Esther Starobin at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum. Her advice to the delegates was, “Don’t be a bystander in this world. You have to know history and pay attention to it. Get involved and learn as much as you can with more than a single viewpoint.”

The group was welcomed to the U.S. Capitol by Sens. Lamar Alexander and Marsha Blackburn and members of the Tennessee congressional delegation who posed for photos and answered questions.

Keslin Moore, a senior from Sequachee Valley Electric Cooperative was awarded a \$10,000 Cooperative Youth Ambassador Scholarship. Moore was a 2018 delegate of the Washington Youth Tour. In the year following the tour, delegates who remain engaged with their sponsoring cooperative and complete certain community service requirements are



*CEMC delegates tour the Washington National Cathedral.*



*CEMC's group visits the Lincoln Memorial*

eligible for the scholarship. Moore's name was randomly selected from among the 50 delegates from across the state who completed the requirements.

“An investment in these young people is also an investment in the communities we serve,” said David Callis, CEO of the Tennessee Electric Cooperative Association. “These are exceptional students, and our hope is that their Youth Tour experience empowers them to return home and make a difference in their communities.”

President Lyndon Johnson inspired the Washington Youth Tour in 1957 when he encouraged electric cooperatives to send youngsters to the nation's capital. In the years since, more than 6,000 young Tennesseans have been delegates on the Washington Youth Tour.

# Experience Robertson County

The Robertson County Chamber of Commerce invites you to come “Experience Robertson County” on Saturday, Sept. 14.

This event encompasses the entire county, providing guests the opportunity to experience what makes Robertson County so unique. Exploring the 11 municipalities that make up beautiful Robertson County, learning the history and seeing the incredible sites along the way is guaranteed to make this free, family-friendly event something that you’ll add to your calendar every year. Every city will have a host business that will be the designated stop to collect stamps and create memories. The stops will welcome guests from 9 a.m. until 4 p.m.

At each stop, guests will take part in an experience in which they will learn about the host business and community they are visiting. Before



they leave, they’ll collect a stamp in their official Robertson County Passport. Each stamp collected will be one entry for the cash prizes to be given away at the end of the tour, which wraps up at 4 p.m. Participants will then gather on the Historic Courthouse Square in Springfield for music, shopping and three grand prize drawings totaling \$1,500 in cash! The drawings will take place just before 6 p.m., and you must be present to win.

This is a free event open to everyone! Make a day of it and visit all 11 stops, or pick your

favorites and just visit a few; no minimum stops are required to participate. Take your time and enjoy the experience; this is not a race, so there’s no need to rush. This self-guided tour allows you to choose your path at your convenience.

Come experience all there is to offer in Robertson County, where you are minutes from Nashville, miles from ordinary.

For more information, visit the event’s Facebook page, “Experience Robertson County” or website, [www.robertsonchamber.org/experience](http://www.robertsonchamber.org/experience).



Shade Tree Farm and Orchard in Adams, left, and Thomas Drugs in Cross Plains, above, are just two of the stops along the Experience Robertson County tour that will be held Saturday, Sept. 14.

# Coming next month: CEMC's 81st annual meeting

Don't miss next month's issue of *The Tennessee Magazine*; it will contain everything you need to know about Cumberland Electric Membership Corporation's 81st annual membership meeting.

We hope you will join us at White House Heritage High School on Saturday, Sept. 21, for our co-op's biggest event. Director elections will be held, a complimentary breakfast will be served, youth activities will be available, the Back Lot Pickers will provide musical entertainment and some exciting prizes will be given away.

Mark your calendars for Saturday, Sept. 21, and make plans to join us as we celebrate 81 years of serving you, our members!



## Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Routinely replace or clean your air conditioner's filter. Replacing a dirty, clogged filter can reduce your air conditioner's energy consumption by 5 to 15 percent.

Source: [energy.gov](http://energy.gov)



# Please make room for roadside crews

When the power goes out, so do Cumberland Electric Membership Corporation's line crews. Lineworkers are the first to respond after an outage occurs, and they work tirelessly to restore power to the communities we serve.

If you're traveling and see one of our crews on the side of the road, we kindly ask that you move over if possible and give our employees a little extra space to work. We care deeply about the safety of all, and this extra precaution ensures just that.

If you approach a crew while traveling on a two-lane road, moving over to the next lane might not be an option. In this case, we simply ask that you slow down when approaching roadside crews. If you approach a crew while traveling on a four-lane road and safety and traffic conditions allow, we ask that you move over into the far lane.

In 2011, following efforts by Tennessee's electric cooperatives and municipal utilities, the state's Move Over law was revised to include utility workers as well as the already covered police, firefighters and other first-responders. The requirements of the Move Over law are simple: On a four-lane road, if safety and traffic conditions allow, a driver approaching a utility vehicle with flashing lights must move into the far lane. On a two-lane road or when changing lanes is not possible, a driver must reduce speed.

Utility crews aren't the only ones who could use the extra space. Emergency responders such as police officers, firefighters and emergency medical technicians often find themselves responding to emergency situations near busy roadways. We ask that you follow the same procedures mentioned above to help keep these crews safe.

There's plenty of room for all. Let's work together to keep everyone safe on our local roadways.



# Knowledge is power

Grab your No. 2 pencils, Expo markers and three-ring binders. Gather your supplies, pack your lunch and watch for the bus, because it's back to school time.

Education is critical to Tennessee. Few things have greater impact on our region's economic success and long-term prosperity than education. It builds knowledge, skills and, ultimately, opportunity.

As students return to the classroom this year, they will not be alone.

Hundreds of teachers, counselors and administrators will be there as well. Teachers play an important role in our communities — educating students, providing counsel and guidance and nurturing young people into tomorrow's leaders. Their work has a lasting impact on the success of their students and our community. Cumberland Electric Membership Corporation salutes these educators for the essential service they provide.

In addition to students and teachers, it may surprise you that CEMC employees will be returning to the classrooms as well.

Each year, our co-op provides safety, leadership and STEM training for students in our local schools. You can find more information about our education programs on our website at [www.cemc.org/community.html](http://www.cemc.org/community.html).

CEMC has a mission to improve everyday life in the communities we serve. We do this through the delivery of affordable and reliable energy, but we also fulfill this mission by investing in the future leaders of our community.



General Manager Chris Davis reads to North Stewart Elementary students during Read Across America week.



CEMC Lineman Jeremy Wix helps a student try on lineman gloves during career day at Sango Elementary. Linemen visit schools each year, speaking about their jobs and how they stay safe by using protective gear while working with electricity.

One example of this is the Washington Youth Tour. In June, CEMC sent 12 high school students to our nation's capital to learn about government, history and public policy. You can read more about this year's trip on pages 20-22.

We provide these programs because we believe that empowering, encouraging and supporting young people will lead to a bright future for the communities we serve.

Whether it is volunteering to read a book to a kindergarten class or supporting a career fair or sports team, involvement in our schools is always money well spent.

Benjamin Franklin once said, "An investment in knowledge pays the best interest," and the young people in our communities are a worthy investment.