2027 PLANTERS EMC WASHINGTON YOUTH TOUR

For 60 years, Planters EMC has sponsored high school juniors on the Washington Youth Tour. The Washington Youth Tour is a weeklong leadership experience that offers participants the opportunity to tour Washington, D.C., and experience U.S. government and history firsthand while networking with over 100 other teens representing EMCs across Georgia.

ESSAY TOPIC

The Seven Cooperative Principles are:

1. Voluntary and Open Membership
2. Democratic Member Control
3. Members' Economic Participation
4. Autonomy and Independence
5. Education, Training and Information
6. Cooperation Among Cooperatives
7. Concern for Community

ESSAY TOPIC:

Planters EMC is an electric distribution cooperative. Briefly discuss the seven cooperative principles that guide all types of cooperatives. Which cooperative principle do you think is the most important and why?

LENGTH:

500 - 1,000 words

CONTEST SCHEDULE

ESSAY DEADLINE

Monday, January 25, 2027

FINALISTS ANNOUNCED

Monday, February 8, 2027

FINALIST INTERVIEWS BEGIN

Tuesday, February 9, 2027

THREE DELEGATES ANNOUNCED

Friday, February 19, 2027

PLANTERS EMC YOUTH TOUR BANQUET

**Delegates, parents and associated school personnel will be invited.*

Thursday, April 15, 2027

2027 WASHINGTON YOUTH TOUR

Thursday, June 17-24, 2027

CONTEST RULES AND REGULATIONS

The competition is open to all high school juniors enrolled in participating schools within Planters Electric Membership Corporation's service area. Home-school juniors are also eligible but must reside in the primary residence served by Planters EMC. The following rules and regulations will be adhered to:

1. Any student who has previously won the Washington Youth Tour is not eligible to enter the contest.
2. Any student who is a son or daughter of a Planters EMC employee or director must enter the statewide Washington Youth Tour contest. Contact Whitney Zeagler for details.
3. Each participant must be an "actively enrolled" junior in an accredited Georgia public or private high school or academy located in a county served by Planters EMC. Home-school juniors are also eligible but must reside in the primary residence served by Planters EMC.
4. All participants must be 16 years old at the time the tour takes place.
5. Each contest participant must submit a typed report using the printing format of Times New Roman, 12 point font with double spaced lines.
6. Each essay should be written on the topic provided. The length of the essay should not be less than 500 words but no more than 1,000 words.
7. The application form should be completed and attached to the essay.
8. Essays will be turned over to an independent panel of impartial judges who will evaluate each entry according to set criteria. Students should be advised that the judges will be giving consideration to such qualities as grammar, neatness, composition, originality, research, and knowledge of the subject. (Note: Students should simply follow the same methods utilized when writing a required report or term paper for a school class.)
9. Following the evaluation of all written work by the judges, a smaller group of finalists will be chosen. At this point, a personal interview will be held with each student on an individual basis. Interview judging criteria include knowledge, speaking ability, poise, personality and appearance.
10. The final decision on Planters EMC's three (3) representatives on the Washington Youth Tour will be based on the student's ability to communicate in writing as well as the ability to communicate "one on one."
11. All essays along with the "Washington Youth Tour Application" form attached as a cover sheet should be turned in at any Planters EMC office or received by mail addressed to: Whitney Zeagler, Planters EMC, P.O. Box 979, Millen GA 30442-0979, no later than 5 p.m. on Monday, January 25, 2027.
12. All essays become the property of Planters EMC and may be used in EMC publications.
13. The 2027 Washington Youth Tour will begin on June 17, 2027 in Atlanta and conclude on June 24, 2027, also in Atlanta. All expenses (food, lodging, and airfare) with the exception of souvenirs will be covered by the EMC. Transportation to Washington, as well as the return trip, will be provided by one of the major airlines serving Atlanta's Hartsfield-Jackson International Airport. Transportation to and from Atlanta will be the responsibility of Planters EMC unless the parent or guardian wishes to provide transportation for their son or daughter.
14. Planters EMC will award each 2027 Washington Youth Tour winner with a $1,000 college scholarship. The scholarship will be submitted to their school of choice after the delegate graduates high school. The funds can be used for any educational expenses.
15. All delegate selections are at the sole discretion of Planters EMC.
16. Direct questions about the Washington Youth Tour to:

Whitney Zeagler
(478) 982-4722 Ext. 229
whitney.zeagler@plantersemc.com

Planters Electric Membership Corporation
P.O. Box 979 | Millen, GA 30442-0979

2027 PLANTERS EMC WASHINGTON YOUTH TOUR

2027 APPLICATION

PLEASE PRINT LEGIBLY OR TYPE ANSWERS & ATTACH ESSAY ON A SEPARATE SHEET OF PAPER

STUDENT NAME (Full Name as appears on Drivers License [First, Middle and Last Name]):			
PREFERRED NAME (For Delegate Name Badge [First & Last]):		T-SHIRT SIZE: ☐S ☐M ☐L ☐XL ☐2X ☐3X	
HOME MAILING ADDRESS:		HOME PHONE:	
CITY, STATE & ZIP:		CELL NUMBER:	
E-MAIL ADDRESS:		U.S. CITIZEN ☐YES ☐NO	SEX ☐M ☐F
SOCIAL SECURITY #: XXX-XX-____	AGE:	DATE OF BIRTH (MM/DD/YY): ___ ___ / ___ ___ / ___ ___	
NAME OF SCHOOL:		GRADE LEVEL:	
MOTHER'S FULL NAME:	FATHER'S FULL NAME:		
MOTHER'S E-MAIL ADDRESS:	FATHER'S E-MAIL ADDRESS:		
MOTHER'S CELL NUMBER:	FATHER'S CELL NUMBER:		

I certify with my signature that all information reported on this application is true and correct. I also certify that the essay was solely written from my own ideas and composition.

APPLICANT SIGNATURE _____ DATE _____

Direct questions about the Washington Youth Tour to:

Whitney Zeagler
whitney.zeagler@plantersemc.com
(478) 982-4722 Ext. 229

RETURN TO ANY PEMC OFFICE OR EMAIL TO:
whitney.zeagler@plantersemc.com

EXTRACURRICULAR AND COMMUNITY SERVICE:

NAME OF ORGANIZATION	OFFICE(S) HELD	DATE(S) ACTIVE
1.		
2.		
3.		
4.		
5.		

HONORS AND RECOGNITIONS RECEIVED:

NAME OF ORGANIZATION	HONOR/AWARD	DATE RECEIVED
1.		
2.		
3.		
4.		
5.		

WHAT MOTIVATES YOU TO SUCCEED WITH SHORT AND LONG-RANGE GOALS?

TELL US WHY YOU SHOULD BE SELECTED FOR THE TOUR: