

Opportunities for high school juniors and seniors



2017 Scholarship Winners



2017 Washington Youth Tour Participants

Deadline to apply for both is March 9, 2018. Applications can be found under the Community tab at bgenergy.com.

Message from the President

Our purpose is our guiding light

A new year is the time when many of us think about where we want to go and how we are going to get there. Blue Grass Energy's purpose has provided an excellent road map to direct our path of making life better, the cooperative way for our members.

This purpose has guided us for over 80 years and provides a firm foundation that we will continue to build upon in 2018 and well into the future.

We intend to pursue this purpose and let it remain our guiding light. With every decision we make, our purpose directs us to focus on our members first. Our purpose allows us to not only concentrate on what we do daily, but to visualize the greater picture of the effect we have in the lives of our members and our communities. You see, we do more than build power lines—we are making

life better, the cooperative way—by connecting our members with those they love.

Electricity provides the power to feel secure in our homes; poles hold wire allowing for the care of those that are sick and hospitalized; outdoor lighting provides peace of mind in the dark of night; well-trimmed trees allow uninterrupted power so future leaders can learn; and connecting a new service allows opportunities for new businesses to grow in our communities.

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Michael I. Williams
President & CEO

The Trip of a Lifetime

Eighty-three of Kentucky's best and brightest rising high school seniors descended upon the nation's capital last June, representing electric cooperatives on the annual Washington Youth Tour.

Blue Grass Energy sponsored nine delegates on the all-expenses-paid, week-long experience: Logan Bechanan, Kailey Boyles, Hannah Creech, Ty Hutchens, Whitley Lemons, Alexis Koteras, Nelson Paul, Marissa Stephens and Annah Valenta.

"I have been going to the annual meetings since I was very young, and this is an opportunity that I always hoped to receive," says Ty Hutchens. "I feel fortunate to have been selected, and the trip exceeded my imagination."

En route on two motor coaches, the journey began with visits to the homes of Thomas Jefferson and George Washington, followed by more than 40 miles of walking to monuments and museums in Washington, D.C.

"As I was surrounded by incredible people, monuments, history, politicians, and current events, Washington, D.C., captured my heart," says Annah Valenta. "This trip has helped guide my decision to pursue political journalism, a passion of mine which grew much stronger after my week in D.C. And it's all thanks to Blue Grass Energy."

Kentucky's delegation joined a record crowd of 1,800 students at the NRECA Youth Day, where they heard from speakers who motivate and honor the spirit of



electric cooperatives' commitment to community and the important role of being politically aware and active.

"The friendships I made were the most surprising part of the trip for me," says Alexis Koteras. "If I had been told at the beginning of the week that I would've made such

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strong bonds in just a week, I probably wouldn't have believed it. Now, it hasn't even been a week and I miss them all beyond belief. Thank you to everyone at Blue Grass Energy that made this trip possible for me and everyone else that went. It was a life changing experience that I will truly never forget."

"From visits to war memorials and museums to listening and interacting with our state's congressional representatives, I feel as if I've gained a deeper and more inclusive understanding of our country's political and historical background," says Marissa Stephens.

"The Washington Youth Tour was an awesome experience that gave me

a chance to learn more about our nation's history and our great government and to meet new people and make great friends," says Whitley Lemons. "This trip meant the world to me and I am so thankful for the opportunity to attend. I would like to thank Blue Grass Energy for all they did for us."



Application can be found under the Community tab at bgenergy.com.

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Rachel Settles, Editor



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Introducing our Charity for 2018— **American Cancer Society**

Each year, Blue Grass Energy selects a charity to support for the year. We partner with a local non-profit organization which benefits the communities in which we live and serve. Our fundraising efforts for the entire year go to that cause. This year, we are pleased to announce our partnership with the American Cancer Society.

The American Cancer Society is the nationwide, community-based, voluntary health organization dedicated to eliminating cancer as a major health problem by preventing cancer, saving lives and diminishing suffering from cancer through research, education, advocacy and service.

Their mission is to save lives, celebrates lives and lead the fight for a world without cancer.

President's message (cont'd.)

We are neighbors helping neighbors, making a difference in the lives of others. Adhering to our cooperative purpose allows us to consistently deliver high standards of excellence

to our members. That same purpose is the guiding light to help us deliver the quality service you deserve. It's a journey well worth the effort and one that I am honored to be a part of.