

SEPTEMBER 2023

*Making life better, the cooperative way®*

## Supporting young leaders

When you hear about Blue Grass Energy investing in the communities we serve, it's not just in electrical infrastructure, economic development or the local events we support. We also have a national reach, sponsoring local students each year on the Washington Youth Tour.

In June, four local rising seniors joined 55 other electric co-op students from across the commonwealth for a weeklong, all-expenses-paid trip to Washington, D.C. The trip gives Kentucky's next generation of leaders the chance to meet with their senators and representatives and to participate in civic engagement activities with students from across the country. "It was amazing to learn about our nation's capital and tour all the places we did,"



Blue Grass Energy's delegation gather around the Thomas Jefferson statue located at his memorial. From left, Cooper Bartlett, Maci Presnell, Leah Rennels and Jakob Barker. Photo: Alan Coffey



Maci Presnell, left, and Leah Rennels enjoy the shade at the Vietnam Memorial. Photo: Tim Webb

says Leah Rennels from Anderson County High School.

Students were joined in Washington, D.C., by more than 1,800 delegates representing electric co-ops from across the country. Marking its 58th year, the Washington Youth Tour educates students about the issues co-ops face, encouraging them to come home to Kentucky and help lead the co-ops in the future. "I've gained insight not only as an American citizen but also as a student preparing to take the steps in life," says Cooper Bartlett from West Jessamine High School.

The busy itinerary included stops at national memorials, Smithsonian

museums, the Holocaust Museum and International Spy Museum, Arlington National Cemetery and Thomas Jefferson's Monticello. At the U.S. Capitol, Blue Grass Energy students interacted with Kentucky's congressional delegation, including Sen. Rand Paul and representatives Brett Guthrie, Thomas Massie, James Comer, Andy Barr and Morgan McGarvey. Students also heard from staff members representing Sen. Mitch McConnell and Rep. Hal Rogers.

"Getting the opportunity to tour our nation's capital puts our roles as young people into perspective," says Jakob Barker from West Jessamine High School.

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## CONTACT INFORMATION

**24-Hour Service:** (888) 546-4243  
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**Denise Myers, Editor**



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## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

# We're here to serve you

**W**e're here to serve you." We've all heard this phrase countless times. These words may sound generic, but to us they mean everything.

Blue Grass Energy was created to serve our community. In the beginning, neighbors banded together and formed our co-op for the common good. In our case, it was the only way the community could bring electricity to the area where there was none. In doing so, we helped our communities thrive. That mission-focused heritage is the golden thread that is woven throughout our history.

Today, we are continuing to power our communities. While our focus has remained steady on making life better while providing reliable energy to our members, today's energy landscape and member expectations are far different than they were decades ago. That's why we're adapting to keep pace with changing technology, evolving needs and new expectations.

Serving as your trusted energy advisor means we want to help you save energy (and money) and provide advice and information on a broad range of energy topics. For example, if you're looking for ways to save energy, check out [bgenergy.com](http://bgenergy.com) for tips and ideas to increase the energy efficiency of your home. Consider taking a free energy assessment on our website to identify ways you can save energy at home. Understanding how your house uses energy can help determine the best ways to modify energy use.

If you're considering a rooftop solar installation, our energy advisors would be happy to give you an unbiased view of the pros and cons. Investing in a solar system is a major decision, and it's important to fully understand the costs, responsibilities and potential energy savings. We will look at the total energy picture and help you determine the best options for your home. We understand that homeowners must undertake their due diligence, and we're here to help you through that process.

So, the next time you hear us use the phrase, "We're here to serve you," we hope you know that we mean it. Service is deeply ingrained into who we are.

We're here whenever you need us. Please let us know how we can help.

*By President/CEO  
Michael I. Williams*





Coordinated by Kentucky Electric Cooperatives, the Washington Youth Tour gives students the unique opportunity to witness our government in action. “This trip is designed to give students a personal understanding of American history and their role as citizens by meeting their senators and representatives,” says Mallory Wafzig,

the statewide association’s cooperative outreach manager and youth tour director.

“I am so thankful for being able to participate in this trip. I was able to make priceless memories and experience things that not everyone gets to do,” says Maci Presnell from Scott County High School.

Kentucky’s co-ops have sent rising high school seniors on the Washington Youth Tour since 1972. “We are investing in our local students because we believe it is important for young leaders to see our nation’s capital and gain a better understanding of what it means to be a citizen,” says Mike Williams, Blue Grass Energy CEO.



Students had the opportunity to meet with Rep. Andy Barr while in Washington, D.C.



Jakob Barker, left, studies a display at the International Spy Museum.



Leah Rennels documents her visit at the Lincoln Memorial.



Students fellowship during their last day together before returning home. Photos: Tim Webb

# VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Advocate for a child.  
Be a voice.  
Change their story.

## UPCOMING INFORMATION SESSIONS

SEPTEMBER 7, 2023 @ 5:30PM

315 W. MAIN ST, STE 208, FRANKFORT, KY 40601

DECEMBER 12, 2023 @ 5:30PM

473 W WALNUT, DANVILLE, KY 40422

## INQUIRE TODAY!



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## The power of preparation

With severe weather events occurring more frequently, now more than ever, it makes sense to be prepared. During a prolonged power outage or other emergency, this means having enough food, water and supplies to last at least a few days.

In honor of National Preparedness Month in September, we want to remind members about the power of preparation. There are several practical steps you can take to keep you and your family safe.

Even at a modest level, preparation can help reduce stress and anxiety and lessen the impact of an emergency event. We recommend starting with the basics.

Here are general guidelines recommended by the Federal Emergency Management Agency:

- Assemble a grab-and-go disaster kit. Include nonperishable food, water (one gallon per person, per day), diapers, batteries, flashlights, prescription medications, first-aid kit, battery-powered radio and phone chargers.
- Develop a plan for communicating with family and

friends (i.e., via text, social media, third party, etc.).

- Have some extra cash available; during a power outage, electronic card readers and cash machines may not work.
- Fill your car with gas.
- Organize your supplies so they are together in an easily accessible location that family members know about.

### CARING FOR VULNERABLE FAMILY MEMBERS

If you have older family members or those with special needs, make sure they have enough medication and supplies for a few days. If they don't live with you, arrange for a neighbor to check in on them. If a severe weather event is expected and they require medical equipment for survival, have a backup plan. If you have an infant or young children, make certain that you have ample formula, diapers, medication and other supplies on hand to weather an outage lasting several days or more.

At Blue Grass Energy, we care about your safety. Planning for an emergency situation today can give you more confidence to deal with severe weather and potential outages in the future.