POWERING EXPERIENCES
TOGETHER

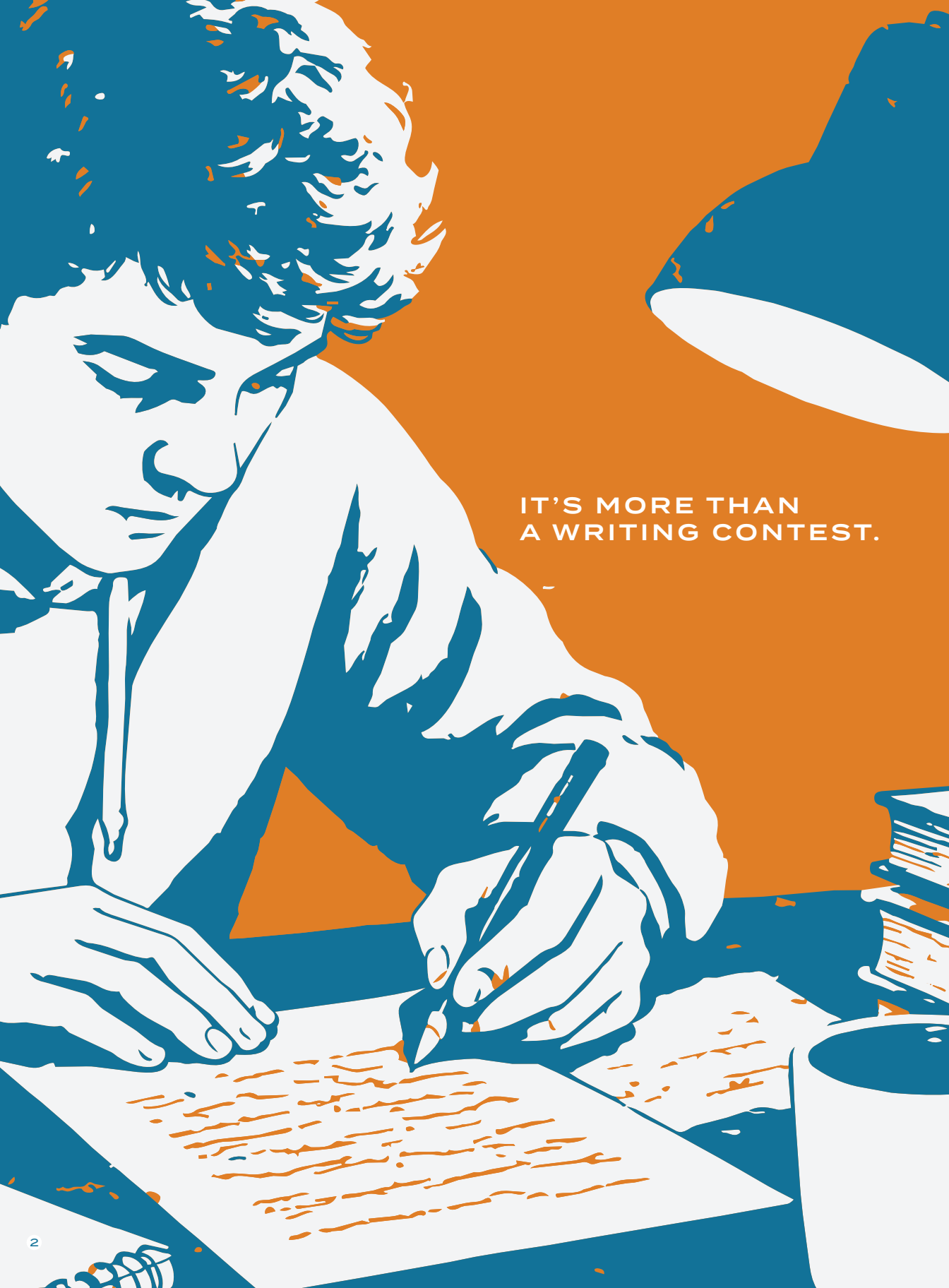


TENNESSEE
ELECTRIC
CO-OPS

CREATIVE
WRITING &
SCHOLARSHIP
COMPETITION

HANDBOOK

TENNESSEE
WASHINGTON YOUTH TOUR
SINCE 1965


IT'S MORE THAN
A WRITING CONTEST.

IT'S A ONCE-IN-A-LIFETIME OPPORTUNITY FOR AN EXPERIENCE LIKE NO OTHER!

Before you lies a unique opportunity. Winners of the Tennessee Electric Co-ops Writing Contest not only earn spots on a once-in-a-lifetime tour of our nation's capital, but they also qualify for additional trips, thousands of dollars in scholarships and a chance to network with other young leaders from across the country.

More than 6,000 high school juniors from across Tennessee have participated in the Washington Youth Tour.

This booklet will tell you more about the trip and outline the requirements and resources to help you write the best short story. It will also tell you a little bit more about electric cooperatives and the reasons they have provided this opportunity to students for more than 50 years.

Learn more: youthtour.tnelectric.org

What's in it for you?

- **TRAVEL**
- **RECOGNITION**
- **SCHOLARSHIPS**
- **CONNECTIONS**

It all starts here!



YOUR PRIZE FOR SHOWING THE BENEFITS OF COOPERATIVE POWER:

It all starts with an unforgettable trip to Washington, D.C., in June 2027 with nearly 2,000 other students your age from across the country.

Each day of the Washington Youth Tour brings more impressive sights, opportunities for photos and lots of memories. Among activities filling the agenda are tours of Washington, D.C., and all its landmarks, memorials and museums. Highlights include the Smithsonian Institution, White House, U.S. Capitol, Mount Vernon and Monticello.

Food, travel and lodging expenses are paid by Tennessee's electric cooperatives. But the benefits of the Youth Tour go far beyond an expense-paid trip.

Youth Tour winners can compete to represent Tennessee on the Youth Leadership Council. One student from each state is selected to return to Washington, D.C., for a leadership workshop, which focuses on the electric cooperative industry.

And don't forget about the chance to help pay for your college education with scholarships of $3,000, $2,000 or $1,000 awarded by the Tennessee Electric Co-ops if your story is judged one of the top three in the state.

You can also choose to participate in our Cooperative Youth Ambassador program. Delegates who stay active and engaged with their co-ops in the 12 months following Youth Tour qualify for a drawing for a $10,000 scholarship to the school of the winner's choice.

Other scholarships, including the Glenn English National Cooperative Leadership Foundation Scholarship and the Engineers of the Future Scholarship, are available through the Glenn English National Cooperative Leadership Foundation.

MORE SCHOLARSHIPS!

CARSON-NEWMAN
A CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY

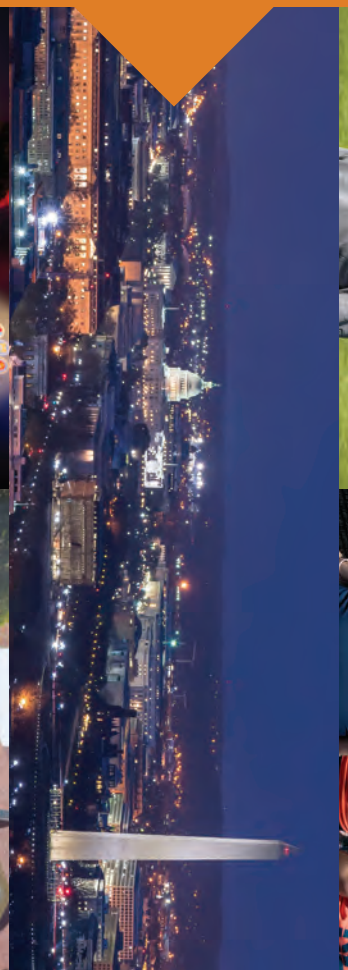
UNION UNIVERSITY

In addition to scholarships provided by the electric co-ops, Union University in Jackson and Carson-Newman University in Jefferson City have recognized the leadership potential of Youth Tour delegates. The universities have agreed to provide dozens of scholarships worth up to $10,000 a year for four years.



900 WORDS WILL TAKE YOU PLACES











ALL IT TAKES IS 900 WORDS:

Write a short story inspired by the theme "Powering Tennessee Together." It's more than the electricity that lights our homes and businesses — it's about the people, partnerships and purpose that energize our communities. Show how teamwork, kindness and electricity can brighten lives, create opportunities and strengthen Tennessee.

RULES & ESSENTIAL RESOURCES

There are a few rules you need to follow:

1. Only juniors in high school are eligible to participate.
2. Every short story must be titled "Powering Tennessee Together."
3. Submissions must not exceed 900 words, including articles ("a," "an" and "the"). The exact word count must be included on your cover page. Entries must be typewritten and double-spaced.
4. The use of AI is not allowed.

Remember, you're writing a short story, which gives you more creative freedom than the rigid guidelines of an essay. Your story should be an entertaining, informative description of electric cooperatives.

Visit ***youthtour.tnelectric.org*** to learn more about electric co-ops. Resources there will provide you with lots of information and material to write your story.

CO-OP CONTACT PERSON

EMAIL ADDRESS

DUE DATE

KEYS FOR SUCCESS

The tips below can help you get one step closer to D.C. Use these suggestions to make your story stand out.

CHARACTERS, TIME AND PLACE:
Spend some time to develop the characters, location and time frame of your story.

GET SPECIFIC:
Include at least three specific examples of the many ways electric co-ops power their communities. The expansion of broadband, availability of reliable energy, efforts to recruit new businesses and jobs, and leadership development for young people are just a few examples.

INCLUDE ONE OR MORE CO-OP PRINCIPLES:
The seven principles of electric co-ops are listed on page 11. Include these in your story to demonstrate your understanding of the many things that make electric co-ops unique.

JUDGING CRITERIA:

Be creative in your writing, using the information in this booklet and your own distinctive voice. Your writing will be judged on three factors:

50%: APPROPRIATE TREATMENT OF THEME & KNOWLEDGE OF SUBJECT
To gain full credit in this category, you'll have to effectively weave the information relating to the theme throughout the short story. Judges will see indications of additional research, a grasp of what information is vital to making your story believable and credible and creative ways of presenting that information.

35%: ORIGINALITY & CREATIVITY
Use a different, entertaining, effective way of presenting information that will educate a reader and get your points across. The use of AI is not allowed.

15%: GRAMMAR & COMPOSITION:
If you need an explanation here, check your English textbook.

POWERING EXPERIENCES TOGETHER

6,000+

HIGH SCHOOL JUNIORS HAVE PARTICIPATED IN THIS ONCE-IN-A-LIFETIME OPPORTUNITY

50+ YEARS

OF THE WASHINGTON YOUTH TOUR

900 WORDS

IS ALL YOU NEED TO GET STARTED

1 MILLION+

THE NUMBER OF STORIES & RELATIONSHIPS THAT YOU WILL HAVE ALONG THE WAY



TENNESSEE ELECTRIC CO-OPS: *What do we do for you?*



Tennessee's electric cooperatives provide power to more than 3 million Tennesseans. Unlike other businesses, electric cooperatives are owned by the consumers they serve and operate as not-for-profit businesses. This might not sound important, but it means that consumers are the priority. Rates are kept low because there are no stockholders to pay, and the co-op is responsive to members because they vote on co-op leadership.

In the 1930s, there was no power in rural Tennessee. Homeowners and farmers came together to create co-ops that would bring power to their homes.

Today, co-ops are modern businesses that use technology to efficiently operate a large, advanced grid. Despite these changes, the primary goal of co-ops has not changed: provide safe, reliable and affordable energy to our neighbors, the very people who own the co-op.

Because of their local ties, co-ops are committed to improving lives in their communities. Going beyond simply keeping the lights on, co-ops recruit businesses and investments, help members operate their homes and businesses more efficiently and prepare students to become tomorrow's leaders.

We are...

MEMBER-OWNED & OPERATED

Electric co-ops are owned by the people they serve, not by government. Members elect board members to represent their interests and set policy and procedures for the co-op.

NOT-FOR-PROFIT

Co-ops exist to serve their communities instead of share-holders. They distribute and sell energy at cost and invest any excess revenue back into the electric system.

ALWAYS IMPROVING COMMUNITIES

Electric co-ops work to improve everyday life in their rural and suburban communities. They do this through reliable energy and efforts in education and community development.

ELECTRIC-FAST FACTS

3 MILLION+

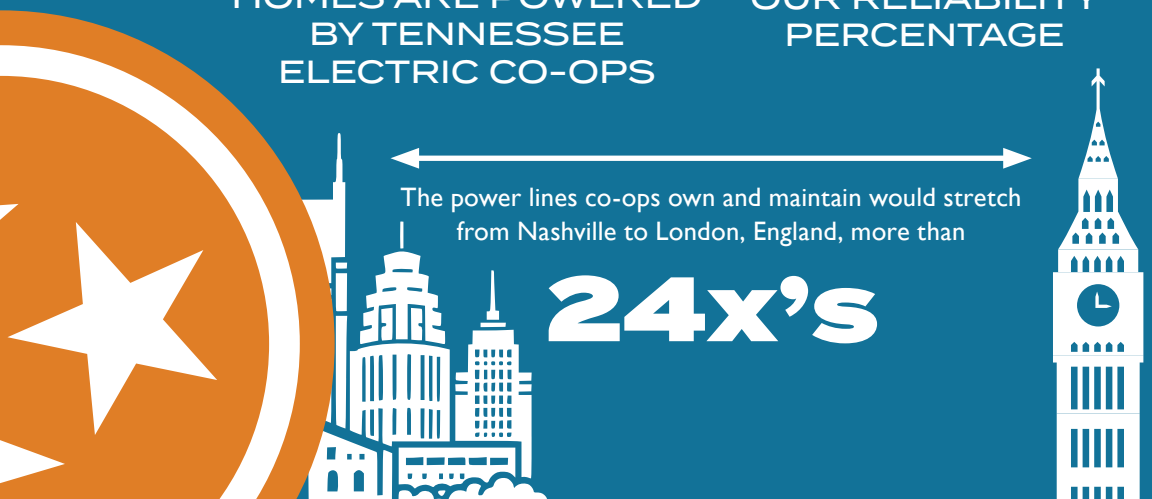
TENNESSEANS SERVED BY ELECTRIC CO-OPS

1 IN 3

HOMES ARE POWERED BY TENNESSEE ELECTRIC CO-OPS

99.9%

OUR RELIABILITY PERCENTAGE



The power lines co-ops own and maintain would stretch from Nashville to London, England, more than

24x's

TENNESSEE ELECTRIC CO-OPS: *What can you do for us?*

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

Electric co-ops provide career opportunities that are close to home but far from ordinary. If you are looking for an opportunity to provide for your family and serve your community, consider a co-op career.

ELECTRIC LINEWORKER

These professionals keep the power on. They not only construct, replace and maintain the electric lines — they get the power back on when storms or other disasters strike.

ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING

Engineers are detail-oriented problem-solvers. Using state-of-the-art equipment, they design, plan and monitor the transmission, distribution and service lines.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

IT pros ensure that technology functions efficiently. They develop programs, evaluate hardware and software needs, manage cybersecurity and maintain communications systems.

FINANCE & ACCOUNTING

Finance professionals ensure co-ops can build and maintain infrastructure to keep the lights on. Duties include risk management, forecasting and overall financial management.

PUBLIC RELATIONS

The co-op's storytellers, marketing and communications professionals tackle a variety of responsibilities, including reputation management, social media and media relations.

HUMAN RESOURCES

HR pros help engage with co-op employees and manage multiple responsibilities, including payroll, benefits administration, recruiting, employee training and leadership.

MEMBER SERVICES

Member service reps are the voice of the co-op and the initial point of contact for co-op consumers. They answer phones, assist new members, solve problems and collect payments.



The seven cooperative principles

1. VOLUNTARY AND OPEN MEMBERSHIP

Cooperatives are voluntary organizations open to all persons able to use their services and willing to accept the responsibilities of membership, without gender, social, racial, political or religious discrimination.

2. DEMOCRATIC MEMBER CONTROL

Cooperatives are democratic organizations controlled by their members, who actively participate in setting policies and making decisions. The elected representatives are accountable to the membership. In primary cooperatives, members have equal voting rights (one member, one vote), and cooperatives at other levels are organized in a democratic manner.

3. MEMBERS' ECONOMIC PARTICIPATION

Members contribute equitably to, and democratically control, the capital of their cooperative. At least part of that capital is usually the common property of the cooperative. Members usually receive limited compensation, if any, on capital subscribed as a condition of membership.

4. AUTONOMY AND INDEPENDENCE

Cooperatives are autonomous, self-help organizations controlled by their members. If they enter into agreements with other organizations, including governments, or raise capital from external sources, they do so on terms that ensure democratic control by their members and maintain their cooperative autonomy.

5. EDUCATION, TRAINING & INFORMATION

Cooperatives provide education and training for their members, elected representatives, managers and employees so they can contribute effectively to the development of their cooperatives. They inform the general public, particularly young people and opinion leaders, about the nature and benefits of cooperation.

6. COOPERATION AMONG COOPERATIVES

Cooperatives serve their members most effectively and strengthen the cooperative movement by working together through local, national, regional and international structures.

7. CONCERN FOR COMMUNITY

While focusing on member needs, cooperatives work for the sustainable development of their communities through policies accepted by their members.

Catch up on past WYT's:
facebook.com/youthtourTN

TENNESSEE
WASHINGTON YOUTH TOUR
SINCE 1965

youthtour.tnelectric.org

Presented to you by
Tennessee Electric Co-ops
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