

Boone Electric Cooperative is proud of the support we provide to area students and their schools. The cooperative has participated in NRECA's Youth Tour since the 1970s. Ten finalists will be chosen to receive \$500 scholarships. The top four finalists will also be chosen to attend the all-expenses-paid 2026 Youth Tour Leadership Conference in Washington, D.C.

## Scholarship Contest Guidelines

### STUDENT ELIGIBILITY:

This scholarship contest is open to any high school or home-schooled junior who attends a school in the Boone Electric Cooperative service area. *Children of BEC Directors are not eligible to enter.*

### APPLICATION CONTENT:

The following items must be submitted to be considered for a 2026 Youth Tour Scholarship. Please use this as a checklist.

- A signed and dated copy of the completed 2026 Youth Tour Scholarship application.
- A reference letter from an adult in your community (teacher, counselor, minister, etc.).
- A brief paragraph stating why you would like to be chosen as a Youth Tour scholarship recipient.
- Submit a short video or write a 250-500 word response on the prompt: **The Youth Tour program is searching for the next generation of leaders. Think about someone you admire as a great leader. This could be a famous figure or someone in your everyday life who inspires you. Who is a leader that has made a big impact on you, and why do you look up to them? What qualities or actions make them a true leader in your eyes? How have they influenced the kind of leader you want to become?** Written responses should be typed or legibly handwritten. **Do not include your name on your response pages or video.** Applications will be judged for creativity, accuracy, clarity, grammar, punctuation and the level of independent research.

### APPLICATION DELIVERY AND DEADLINE:

Applications must be postmarked or received in Boone Electric's office no later than **Saturday, February 28, 2026 at 5 p.m.**

### FINALISTS:

Finalists will be notified no later than **March 20, 2026** via email or letter. Judges will review the applications and video or written responses to determine top candidates to invite for an interview. Ten finalists will be invited to attend the Youth Tour competition on **April 9, 2026**. Personal interviews and a multiple choice test will be given to the finalists to decide who will earn the "Trip of a Lifetime." Decisions of the judges will be final.

All scholarships will go toward an accredited university, college or trade school for the fall 2027 semester. Proof of enrollment will be needed in order to process the scholarship payment. No cash awards will be made directly to the finalists.

sponsored by



**Boone Electric  
Cooperative**

# Boone Electric Cooperative Youth Tour Scholarship Cover Sheet

# 2026

*You must either type or print all your answers neatly in ink. Illegible entries may result in disqualification.*

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_  
*First M.I. Last*

**Permanent mailing address:** \_\_\_\_\_  
*Number & Street*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*City Zip Home Phone (incl. area code) Cell Phone (incl. area code)*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Email. Please do not use your school email as you may not have access over the summer. School attending*

**Parent/Guardian Names:** \_\_\_\_\_

**How did you hear about Youth Tour:**

I certify that this information is true, complete and accurate. I attest that I have read the guidelines associated with this scholarship program. I authorize release of information to confirm and/or verify this application. I further authorize release of my name in connection with announcements of Youth Tour awards in the event that I am selected to be a Boone Electric Cooperative Youth Tour Scholarship recipient. I grant Boone Electric Cooperative permission to take my photograph or use photographs sent to Boone Electric in marketing pieces to promote future Youth Tour programs.

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Applicant's signature & date*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Parent/Guardian signature & date*

**Application Deadline: Saturday, February 28, 2026 by 5 p.m.**

**Email application to:** Communications@BooneElectric.com (preferred)

OR

**Mail application to:** BEC Youth Tour Scholarship, P.O. Box 797, Columbia, MO 65205-0797

**Deliver in person:** 1413 Rangeline St., Columbia, MO 65201

**Questions?** Please contact Communications at 573-449-4181 or email Communications@BooneElectric.com

# Boone Electric Cooperative Youth Tour Scholarship Application

# 2026

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Please note: You may attach a separate piece of paper if you need more space to answer the questions below.

**1. What have you done in your lifetime that gives you the greatest sense of accomplishment or satisfaction?**

**Please give details:**

\_\_\_\_\_ Judge's Score (1-5): \_\_\_\_\_

**2. List high school activities with school, community and other organizations:**

\_\_\_\_\_ Judge's Score (1-5): \_\_\_\_\_

**3. List any high school achievements or awards received:**

\_\_\_\_\_ Judge's Score (1-5): \_\_\_\_\_

# Boone Electric Cooperative

## Youth Tour Scholarship Application

# 2026

**Please attach the following to your application.**

4. A brief paragraph stating why you would like to be chosen to receive a \$500 scholarship and an all-expenses-paid trip to the 2026 Youth Tour Leadership Conference.

**Judge's Score (1-5):** \_\_\_\_\_

5. Submit a short video or write a 250-500 word response on the prompt: **The Youth Tour program is searching for the next generation of leaders. Think about someone you admire as a great leader. This could be a famous figure or someone in your everyday life who inspires you. Who is a leader that has made a big impact on you, and why do you look up to them? What qualities or actions make them a true leader in your eyes? How have they influenced the kind of leader you want to become?** Responses should be typed or legibly handwritten. **Do not include your name on your response pages or video.** Applications will be judged for creativity, accuracy, clarity, grammar, punctuation and the level of independent research.

**Judge's Score (1-10):** \_\_\_\_\_

### **Judging:**

Application questions are worth a total of 5 points each and the video or written response question is worth 10 points for a combined total of 30 points.

What to expect if you are selected to attend the Youth Tour Scholarship competition:

The 2026 Youth Tour Scholarship finalists will take part in a 10-15 minute interview. The interview is worth a total of 70 points and will be judged on how well you understand electric cooperatives and how you present yourself. There will be questions about Boone Electric Cooperative's history during the interview. Study packets will be provided. All ten finalists will receive a \$500 higher education scholarship for their fall freshman year.

Four finalists will receive the **all-expenses-paid trip to Washington, D.C. on June 14 - 20, 2026.**

All decisions of the judges are final.

### **Questions:**

Contact Communications at 573-449-4181 or by email at [Communications@BooneElectric.com](mailto:Communications@BooneElectric.com).

### **Important dates: (no late entries will be accepted)**

**February 28, 2026 by 5 p.m.** - Applications due to Boone Electric.

**March 20, 2026** - Announcement of finalists

**April 9, 2026** - Youth Tour Competition (if you are a finalist, you must attend this in order to qualify for the scholarship and/or trip).

**June 14 - 20, 2026** - Trip to Washington, D.C. (please make sure that this date does not coincide with sports camps and/or other programs that you wish to take part in).