

CHELCO 2022 Youth Tour application and information packet

School contacts, please have each student fill one of these out and turn them into you. Please return them to me by **Dec. 17** by email or fax.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me by phone or email.

Phone: 850-307-1120

Cell: 850-585-2216

Email: bwhitfield@chelco.com

Fax: 850-892-9243

CHELCO Youth Tour Memo

To: Area School 11th and 12th Grade Guidance Counselors/Youth Tour Coordinators

From: CHELCO's Youth Tour Coordinator

Date: Oct. 27, 2021

The Washington D.C. Youth Tour program has been an annual event at CHELCO since 1983. Through this program, four students whose parents are CHELCO members go on a week-long, all-expense-paid trip to see all the sights in our nation's capital. Through the years, students from all the schools in CHELCO's territory have won the competition and gone on the trip. Almost 100 area students have visited Washington, D.C., through the CHELCO Youth Tour program.

Every student who participates gets to go to Tallahassee for two days to visit the Capitol, legislators, the Florida Supreme Court, and the Challenger Learning Center. They also get to meet students from co-ops throughout the state. Again, this trip is at no cost to the students or their families.

CHELCO needs your help in selecting the students. **This year, juniors *and* seniors are eligible to participate.** This year, we will accept two juniors and two seniors. Participants' parents must be CHELCO members. If you have any questions about a student's eligibility, please do not hesitate to contact Bonnie Whitfield, (850) 307-1120, or bwhitfield@chelco.com to confirm. We'd like you to make sure the students your school chooses are available to participate on the Youth Tour dates and that they are interested in this opportunity. If a student cannot go on the Tallahassee trip, they will be unable to participate in the competition.

Once selected and the applications have been received (**Dec. 17 deadline**), a CHELCO representative will visit the students at school and present them with the 2022 Youth Tour guide book and a general overview of what to expect from Youth Tour. Visits will take place in January, given that COVID-19 protocols will allow in-person visits.

This year, due to COVID-19, we encourage students to follow the recommended guidelines for health and safety. Students and chaperones are encouraged to wear a mask during times we are in public areas and when we are traveling. Hand sanitizer will be provided as needed, and we encourage students to wash their hands thoroughly and often.

Dates of Youth Tour events:

Tallahassee trip: **Feb. 16-17, 2022**

Competition and banquet: **March 3, 2022**

Washington, D.C., trip: **June 14-19, 2022**

Please fill out the enclosed application and have parent permission slips signed. Please return permission slips and application by Dec. 17 by email or mail.

Email: bwhitfield@chelco.com

Mailing Address: CHELCO Youth Tour, P.O. Box 512, DeFuniak Springs, FL 32435.

If you have any questions about this program, please contact the Youth Tour Coordinator, Bonnie Whitfield, at (850) 307-1120.

Youth Tour Information

The Washington Rural Electric Youth Tour is a group of more than 1,800 high school juniors who visit Washington, D.C., each June, year after year, from cities and towns all over the United States. Cooperatives sponsor the program because they think education about cooperatives and about our country is important for students.

Lyndon Johnson inspired the Youth Tour program when he was a Senator in 1957. Johnson wanted to send “youngsters to the national capital where they can actually see what the flag stands for and represents.” First, Texas cooperatives sent students to Washington in 1957. In 1958, cooperatives in Iowa sponsored a group of students on a week-long trip to Washington. Then students from Illinois made the trip. By 1959, Youth Tour had grown to 130 students.

The National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) began coordinating the program in 1964 and suggested that cooperatives from each state join in and send students to Washington in June during what came to be known as Youth Tour Week.

CHELCO began participating in Youth Tour in 1983 and sent two students to Washington each year. In 1997, CHELCO’s Board of Trustees voted to send four students each year because they believe so strongly in the program and its benefits.

The idea continues to grow throughout the country and CHELCO’s student representatives have an opportunity to meet and mingle with about 1,800 other students and chaperones during Youth Tour week.

This is the experience of a lifetime for four deserving students.

Here is what one student winner said:

“The opportunity CHELCO offered me was an experience I will never forget. To be able to join with exceptional peers from across the nation to visit our country’s Capitol was inspiring, educational and incredibly fun. I recommend total immersion in this program.”

Rachel Gold, Niceville High School

CHELCO Youth Tour competition student application (3 pages)

Please Type or print legibly

Student Name: _____ T-shirt size: _____ Age: _____ Gender: _____
High School: _____ School contact: _____
School contact phone #: _____ School contact email: _____
Name you wish to be called: _____ Contact preference: Call ___ Text ___ E-mail ___
Student cell Phone: _____ Student E-mail: _____
Address: _____
Parent or Guardian(s): _____ **Parent** Contact Cell phone: _____

Major study interest: _____

School Activities: _____

Community Activities (church, Volunteer, etc.): _____

Hobbies/Extra Curricular Activities: _____

Awards/Accomplishments: _____

About you (Family or anything you think is interesting): _____

CHELCO Youth Tour

Parental Consent and Publicity Release Form

I/We the parent(s) or guardian(s) of _____ give my/our consent for him/her to participate in the CHELCO Youth Tour trip to Tallahassee, Florida, February 16-17, 2022.

I/We authorize and direct CHELCO through the cooperative staff and/or employee chaperones to direct and supervise my/our son/daughter. We further request and authorize CHELCO through the cooperative staff and/or employee chaperones to secure any medical or other emergency services deemed necessary or desirable for my/our son/daughter during his/her participation in the Youth Tour trip to Tallahassee.

I/We hereby release and agree to hold harmless CHELCO, their officers, members, staffs and associated organizations together with their heirs, successors, or assigns from any and all causes of action, claims, damages, costs, expenses, compensation, personal injury, property loss or any other loss or injury related to participation by my/our son/daughter during his/her participation in the CHELCO Youth Tour program.

I/We hereby grant permission to CHELCO to use photographs, likenesses and/or videotaped images of my/our son/daughter for publicity purposes related to this activity.

Signed: _____ this ____ day of _____ 2021.

(Parent or Guardian)