



Tri-County
EMC

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AUGUST 2023

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2023 WASHINGTON YOUTH TOUR RECAP

On June 16, 104 delegates representing EMCs across the state set off for the 2023 Washington Youth Tour (WYT), a fast-paced, week-long leadership adventure in our nation's capitol.

Since 1965, the prestigious WYT has been inspiring the next generation of future leaders. In addition to convening with more than 1,800 youth representing electric cooperatives across the country, Georgia delegates enjoyed a week of visiting national monuments, exploring the Smithsonian Museums, and even indulging in the infamous Founding Fathers' "Jefferson Filled" donuts, all while learning about the civic history of the United States. On "Capitol Hill Day", delegates engaged with their U.S. Representatives and spent time with U.S. Senators Jon Ossoff and Raphael Warnock on the Capitol steps.

Among the Georgia delegates who attended this year's WYT were Tri-County EMC representatives Jayden Daniel of Eatonton and Esteban Zabala of Milledgeville. Selected from a pool of applicants in February 2023, both Jayden and Esteban expressed their gratitude for the opportunity.



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2023 WASHINGTON YOUTH TOUR RECAP

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Jayden, an upcoming senior at Gatewood School, described the influence that his WYT experience has had on his future career. “Washington Youth Tour made me want to take a bigger look into politics and further expand my leadership abilities,” said Jayden. Esteban, a recent graduate of Baldwin County High School, expressed that it gave him confidence in his ability to leave home and live on campus as he prepares to attend college.

“The main objective of this trip is to help pave the way for future leaders, but it also serves as an opportunity to make connections with fellow delegates and chaperones,” says Tri-County EMC’s Washington Youth Tour Coordinator Anna Smith. “The once-in-a-lifetime experience that is Youth Tour creates such a bond that many alumni maintain their friendships long after they return.”

The next Washington Youth Tour will take place in June 2024. Students who want to learn more about WYT can visit www.tri-countyemc.com/washingtonyouthtour.cms for more information.



TCEMC delegates Esteban Zabala and Jayden Daniel touring Washington D.C.

OPT-IN TO OUR OUTAGE TEXTING PROGRAM

We are right in the middle of storm season, so it’s the perfect time to opt-in to Tri-County EMC’s outage texting program, TextTCEMC. Designed to give you a quick and easy way to notify us when your power goes out, this free service allows members to report outages via text, and that information goes directly into our outage management system so that crews can quickly be dispatched to restore power. There are no phone calls and no waiting on hold.

In order to participate in outage texting, your cell phone number must be up-to-date in our system. This can be done by calling 1.866.254.8100, select 4 for Customer Service, then select 3 to update your phone number. You will need to have your account number available. You can also update your phone number using the online customer portal or myTCEMC app.

Your cell phone must be up-to-date on your account 24-hours in advance. To report an outage in your area, simply text OUT to 85700.



ANNUAL DIRECTORS' ELECTION: A LOOK AT THE BALLOT

Every year, Tri-County EMC simultaneously holds an annual meeting of the membership and board of directors' election. Members have the opportunity to cast their vote in the election and enter to win a \$500 bill credit or one of ten \$50 bill credits to be drawn at the annual meeting. This year's annual meeting will take place on October 19 at 2 PM at the Tri-County EMC office in Gray.



Ballots will be sent out in September. Items included are candidates for the Post 1 director seats, a proposed bylaws amendment, and minutes' approval from the 2022 meeting.

A LOOK AT THE 2023 BALLOT



WANT TO OPT OUT OF YOUR PAPER BALLOT?

To opt out of receiving a paper ballot in the mail, remember to complete the online form at www.tri-countyemc.com/voting.cms before August 30. By opting out of paper balloting and choosing to vote online, you will be sent your login information for the voting website via email. You will not be mailed a paper ballot.



POST 1 DIRECTOR SEATS

Three Post 1 director seats will be on this year's ballot. All incumbents are running unopposed for re-election.



Brenda P. Green



Dan Greene



Sammy Hall



BYLAWS AMENDMENT

The ballot will include a bylaws amendment that would allow the Board to set a date for eligibility to vote in the upcoming election and when petitions for nomination must be provided to the nominating committee. *More information to come.*



2022 MINUTES' APPROVAL

Do you approve the Annual Meeting Minutes from 2022?



TOMATO PIE

Courtesy of Ms. Mary Jo Cassetty of Gray

INGREDIENTS:

- 5 Roma tomatoes, peeled and sliced
- 1/2 cup green onion, chopped
- 10 fresh basil leaves, chopped
- 9-in. pre-baked pie shell/crust
- 1 cup shredded mozzarella cheese
- 1 cup shredded cheddar cheese
- 3/4 cup mayo
- 2 tbsp. Parmesan cheese
- Salt and pepper to taste

DIRECTIONS:

Preheat your oven to 350°.

Place tomatoes in a colander, and sprinkle salt on top. Let the tomatoes drain for 10 minutes before patting them dry with a paper towel.

Layer the tomato, basil, and onion in the pie shell. In a mixing bowl, combine the mayonnaise, mozzarella, and cheddar cheese together and then spread on top. Before placing in the oven, sprinkle on Parmesan cheese and then bake for 30 minutes.

Did you know your recipe is worth \$20 if chosen? Send your best recipes to annaj@tri-countyemc.com or mail to P.O. Box 487, Gray, GA 31032.

BRIGHT IDEAS EDUCATION GRANTS

2023 Applications Now Available!

It's that time of year again! We hate to see summer vacation come to an end. But as always, we are excited to see what is in store for the 2023-2024 school year.

Through the Bright Ideas program, Tri-County EMC annually awards grants to teachers for improving education in local classrooms through innovative projects. Since 2008, the Bright Ideas program has funded grants totaling \$360,000 to support projects in schools throughout Tri-County's service area.

Funds come from unclaimed capital credits that if not used, would have been surrendered to the state. "Tri-County EMC believes that community growth begins with a strong foundation of youth education," says Anna Smith, Communications Specialist at Tri-County EMC. "The Bright Ideas program was established to support teacher projects and initiatives that may not otherwise be funded."

Georgia certified public or private school teachers in grades Pre-K through 12th grade in Baldwin, Jones, Putnam, Jasper, Twiggs, and Wilkinson counties qualify. Individual projects can be funded up to \$1,500. Teachers are limited to one grant proposal per round of funding. Judged by a panel of retired educators, grants are awarded based on innovation, goals, learning objectives, student involvement, and budget. Funds must be used within 18 months of the issue date.

A list of 2022 recipients and an application can be found online at www.tri-countyemc.com/bright-ideas.cms. Applications must be completed and submitted by October 15, 2023.



Tonya Arnold at Lakeview Primary receiving a grant of \$1,495 in 2022.



Owned By Those We Serve

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Tri-County EMC is an equal opportunity provider and employer

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Monthly Publication for
Tri-County EMC Members