



# 2026

## “Government-In-Action” Youth Tour

### Essay Contest Application

**Deadline – 4:30 P.M. – Friday, January 30, 2026**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Last Four Digits of Social Security Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Cellphone: \_\_\_\_\_ Birth Date: \_\_\_\_\_

School and Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

School Counselor’s Signature (to verify status of student) \_\_\_\_\_

Parent’s/Legal Guardian’s Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent’s/Legal Guardian’s Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent’s/Legal Guardian’s Cellphone: \_\_\_\_\_

Hamilton County Electric Cooperative’s Account Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Name on Account: \_\_\_\_\_

Relationship to Student: \_\_\_\_\_

Applicant's Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent's/Legal Guardian's Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Are you available to travel June 14 – 21, 2026? \_\_\_\_\_

Are you a U.S. Citizen? \_\_\_\_\_

Do you have government-issued identification? \_\_\_\_\_

What are some of your hobbies/interests? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Return to Hamilton County Electric Cooperative, P.O. Box 753, Hamilton, Texas 76531,  
Attention: Keela McDonald.**

Hamilton County Electric Cooperative annually sponsors the Government-in-Action Youth Tour, an 8-day, all-expenses-paid trip to Washington, D.C., in June, coordinated by Texas Electric Cooperatives and the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association. This year's winners will join more than 150 of their peers from across the state and more than 1,900 from around the country for a tour of the nation's capital, meetings with congressional representatives, and educational opportunities.

### **Contest Rules**

- ☐ Applicants must be high school juniors or seniors.
- ☐ Applicants' parents/legal guardians must be members of Hamilton County Electric Cooperative.
- ☐ Applicants must reside in the home of parents or legal guardians who are full-time residents of a home serviced by Hamilton County Electric Cooperative.
- ☐ Applicants must submit one completed application along with an essay of not more than 500 words in length, 12-point type, and double-spaced on the following topic:

#### **"Energy Conservation: What Can One Person Do?"**

- ☐ The essays must be typed. No handwritten entries will be accepted.
- ☐ Applicants must have a current driver's license.
- ☐ The essays may be delivered to the Hamilton County Electric Cooperative office at 420 North Rice Street, Hamilton, TX or mailed to:

Hamilton County Electric Cooperative  
Youth Tour Contest/Keela McDonald  
P.O. Box 753  
Hamilton, Texas 76531

- ☐ Essays must be received in the office no later than **4:30 p.m. on January 30, 2026.**

#### **The Selection Process**

- ☐ A panel of judges will select two winners from the written essays submitted.
- ☐ If you are chosen as a winner but find that you are unable to participate in the trip, please advise Keela McDonald at Hamilton County Electric Cooperative as soon as possible.
- ☐ The dates for the 2026 tour are **June 14 - 21, 2026.**
- ☐ A runner-up will represent Hamilton County Electric Cooperative on the trip in case the winner is unable to attend.