

Electric News

Published for Members of the Little Ocmulgee EMC

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Local Student Returns from D.C. Trip with Pride and Purpose

Before she was chosen for the 2016 Washington Youth Tour (WYT), Wheeler County High School student Kaitlyn Smith envisioned a predictable summer, filled with ordinary activities. Now, she says, nothing could be further from the truth.

Kaitlyn, daughter of Toni Smith, of Alamo, recently joined three WYT directors, 113 fellow delegates and 14 chaperones on the annual leadership event sponsored by electric cooperatives in Georgia, including Little Ocmulgee EMC.

The weeklong trip in June offered students a mix of leadership and teambuilding exercises, history lessons with visits to some of the country's most treasured museums and monu-

ments and a rare opportunity to meet with members of Georgia's congressional delegation. The Youth Tour helps EMCs promote stronger communities and a stronger nation by equipping young people to become leaders in their communities and make meaningful, lifelong contributions.

"While some students are more comfortable in leadership roles, all great leaders need help developing their skills," says Gale Cutler, Georgia EMC Youth Tour Director. "Others who might not perceive

themselves as leaders can become exceptional leaders, if given the right coaching and encouragement."

Delegates and their families gathered in Atlanta for a kickoff banquet June 9. The following day, the students departed for Washington, D.C. Highlights of their

stay in the nation's capital included guided tours and stops at Arlington National Cemetery, Smithsonian museums, Holocaust Memorial Museum, Mount Vernon, Supreme Court, U.S. Capitol, Washington Monument and the MLK, FDR, Jefferson, World War II, Korean War Veterans and Lincoln memorials.

Another teaching moment involved discussing today's top energy issues with members of Georgia's congressional delegation, including U.S. Sen. Johnny Isakson and U.S. Reps. Buddy

Carter, Lynn Westmoreland, Rob Woodall, Austin Scott, Doug Collins, Jody Hice, Barry Loudermilk and Rick Allen.

Students practiced their social and networking skills by joining approximately 1,700 of their talented and ambitious peers along with 300 chaperones representing 43 states. "All of the delegates were friendly and inviting," says Mae Manley, a former Youth Tour delegate from Upson EMC, Thomaston. "I came home from

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Mount Vernon, home of our nation's first president, George Washington, was just one of the many tour highlights for Kaitlyn Smith and her fellow 2016 Washington Youth Tour delegates. Kaitlyn represented Little Ocmulgee EMC on the tour and will be featured in the January 2017 Little Ocmulgee EMC newsletter issue of *GEORGIA Magazine*.

Mark Your Calendar to Attend Your 78th Annual Meeting of Members

The 78th Little Ocmulgee EMC Annual Meeting of Members will be held Nov. 9, 2016, at the Wheeler County High School gymnasium in Alamo. Doors will open promptly at 12:30 p.m. for member registration.



Before the business session begins at 2 p.m., there will be a health fair, vendor booths and gospel entertainment. Door prizes will be awarded at the conclusion of the meeting.

Directors seeking re-election for another three-year term are:

- **Laurens County (District 1):** LaRue Fountain
- **Telfair/Dodge counties (District 2):** Wesley Yawn
- **Wheeler/Montgomery counties (District 3):** Carey Locke



Nominations for directors by petition must be signed by 15 or more Little Ocmulgee EMC members and submitted to the co-op no later than Friday, Sept. 9, 2016, at 5 p.m. Nominations are not allowed from the floor at the Annual Meeting.

Washington Youth Tour,

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the trip with more confidence and drive than I have ever had."

Another WYT alumna, Hannah Warren (Okefenokee Rural EMC, Nahunta), says, "The Youth Tour allowed me to really blossom and become more outgoing. I learned some great lessons on creating teams, friendships and partnerships."

This year, Little Ocmulgee EMC and other

electric co-ops in Georgia celebrated 51 years of sponsoring students for this prestigious event. Since Georgia first participated in the WYT in 1965, more than 3,100 teens have been sponsored by EMCs in Georgia and given a rare glimpse into the country's rich heritage while learning about the importance of contributing to a productive society.



Labor Day Closing

Our offices will be closed Monday, Sept. 5, 2016, in observance of the Labor Day holiday. In case of an electrical emergency, please call (912) 568-7171 or toll-free in Georgia (800) 342-1290.

For your convenience, night deposit boxes are available at our main office in Alamo and the Dublin branch office. Or you can pay your bill online at www.loemc.com.

Dates to Remember

Labor Day	Sept. 5
Patriot Day	Sept. 11
First day of fall	Sept. 22
Columbus Day	Oct. 10
National Boss' Day	Oct. 16
United Nations Day	Oct. 24
Halloween	Oct. 31

This Fall, Plant a Tree

Want to purify the air, beautify your home, reduce noise and save money on your energy bill? Plant some trees.

Strategically placed trees and shrubs will shade your home from the sun, keep it cooler in the summer and protect it from harsh weather in the winter. In fact, landscaping for energy efficiency could reduce your air-conditioning costs as much as 15 percent, according to the U.S. Department of Energy.

The best time to plant trees is in the fall, giving roots enough time to take hold before the winter cold. Plant trees on the east, south and west sides of the home for optimal shade from summer sun.

When choosing your trees, consider whether you want them to block sun in the hot summer but allow the winter sun to shine through. If so, deciduous trees are the best choice.

Evergreen trees, on the other hand, will help protect your home from wind and harsh weather year round.

Plan ahead when you plant trees: Do you have enough space for the mature size of the tree? Tall trees could shade too much of the yard. They also pose a hazard if they grow into power lines.

Georgia law requires you to call 811 at least 48



**Know what's below.
Call before you dig.**



hours before you dig to identify any underground power lines.

Trees aren't the only energy-saving plants. Shrubs, bushes and vines close to the home can create a layer of insulation to lock in heat.

Still Burning Old Lightbulbs? Make the Switch

If your home's lamps and light fixtures are still housing old-fashioned incandescent lightbulbs, it's time to switch to something more energy efficient.

Twisty, compact fluorescent lightbulbs—CFLs—are better. But LED bulbs are even more energy efficient and last much longer.

Yes, LEDs cost more than other kinds of lightbulbs—sometimes more than twice as much. But they use about 80 percent less energy than out-of-date incandescents. CFLs use about 70 percent less energy than the old bulbs.

Over time, though, LEDs shine the brightest of the three when it comes to energy use and cost savings. The average life span of an LED bulb is 25,000 hours, compared with 1,200 for a traditional bulb and 8,000 for a CFL. At about 12.5 cents per kilowatt-hour—the national average, according to the U.S. Energy Information Administration—you'll pay \$38



From left: incandescent bulb, compact fluorescent (CFL) bulb, light-emitting diode (LED) bulb.

to operate the LED bulb for 23 years. If the incandescent or CFL bulb lasted 23 years—it won't—you would pay \$201 or \$48, respectively.

Co-op Conference Inspires Young Leaders

Cooperatives across the state, including Little Ocmulgee EMC (LOEMC), recently hosted the 32nd annual Georgia Cooperative Council Youth Leadership Conference at the Georgia FFA-FCCLA Center in Covington.

Representing LOEMC at the July conference was Kemya Bryant, daughter of Ronda Bryant, of Lumber City, and Rashaan Conaway, of Hazlehurst. Kemya, a sophomore at Telfair County High School, was selected by the Telfair County Extension Service/4-H. She was among the 25 teens who gathered to build and enhance their leadership skills and learn about cooperatives and the role they play in communities across the state.

To qualify to attend the Youth Leadership Conference, students must exhibit leadership potential, complete at least their freshman year of high school, apply as a first-time attendee and attend as a guest of their local cooperative.

Aside from networking and forming friendships, the camp promoted teamwork through a series of exercises, training and presentations, including a field trip to the Walton Solar Farms, a newly completed solar project in Monroe, Ga. Other outdoor adventures included the center's mud courses and mud slide. Indoors, students participated in a personality assessment seminar as well as a Congressional Insight workshop run by the National Rural Electric

Cooperative Association (NRECA). The latter provided a view of the skills needed to be an effective member of Congress and provided examples of the variety of responsibilities placed upon legislators—from managing staff, responding to media inquiries and monitoring legislation, to attending round-the-clock meetings with constituents, lobbyists and colleagues.

According to Gale Cutler, Chair of the Georgia Co-op Council Board of Directors and Public Relations Coordinator at Georgia Electric Membership Corp., attendees leave with a greater awareness of how co-ops operate and the impact co-ops have on their local community and nation. "These students will likely become leaders within their communities, so we feel a responsibility to teach them the principles upon which

cooperatives were founded and operate today and how co-ops differ from other business models," she says.

The conference included a discussion of the diversity of industries represented by co-ops. Cutler says cooperatives come in different shapes and sizes and include a broad collection of industries, from agriculture, health care, electric, housing, food, purchasing, to finance and insurance, education and child care, and telecommunications and technology. Examples include Land O' Lakes butter, Ocean Spray cranberry juice, Nationwide Insurance, Ace Hardware and REI Outdoors.



Kemya Bryant, of Lumber City, represented Little Ocmulgee EMC at the 32nd Annual Georgia Co-Op Council Youth Leadership Conference at the Georgia FFA/FCCLA Center in Covington.

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month



Consider insulating your water heater tank, which could reduce standby heat losses by 25 percent to 45 percent and save you about 4 percent to 9 percent in water heating costs. You can find pre-cut jackets or blankets available from around \$20.

—Source: energy.gov

