

# Black River Electric Cooperative Youth Tour Essay Contest Rules

## Eligibility

The Youth Tour Essay Contest is open to high school juniors attending school or living in the Black River Electric Cooperative service area. *Immediate family members of BREC employees and Directors are ineligible.*

## How To Enter

1. Submit an original essay (500-1,000 words) on the topic:  
**“My Favorite Cooperative Principle.” The 7 cooperative principles provide guidance for today’s electric cooperative. List and explain, in your own words, the 7 cooperative principles. Select the principle you feel is the most important and explain why.**
2. Complete an application and student profile. The forms are available from your school’s English teacher, visiting [www.brec.coop](http://www.brec.coop) or by calling BREC at 1-800-392-4711.

## Rules

1. Reference material may be taken from the internet, public or school libraries, personal interviews or other generally accepted research material.
2. Typed essays are preferred, but neatly handwritten entries are acceptable. Use one side of the paper.
3. Attach a **separate** title page with:  
**Your Name**  
**Address**  
**Phone Number**  
**School Name**
4. Essays must be postmarked by **March 7, 2025**. Mail entries to:  
**Youth Tour Essay Contest**  
**Black River Electric Cooperative**  
**P.O. Box 31**  
**Fredericktown, Missouri 63645**

## Selection

1. Nine finalists, three from each of the three BREC Districts, will be chosen by a selection committee. *(BREC reserves the right to redefine the areas to allow for fair competition.)*
2. Selection of the nine finalists will be based on: *originality, creativity, assimilation of topic & research, composition, and grammar.*
3. The nine finalists and their immediate families will be invited to a final judging and banquet in April at the Headquarters in Fredericktown where they will present their essays.
4. Three finalists will win a trip to Washington, D.C. Three second place winners will win a trip to the Cooperative Youth Leadership Conference in Jefferson City, and three third place winners will receive \$100.
5. The three first place winners and their families will be invited to an all expense paid banquet in Columbia, Missouri on June 15, 2025. The delegates will depart the next day for their week in Washington, D.C.!



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Thank you for your interest in the 2025  
Black River Electric Cooperative Youth Tour Essay Contest!

This year's topic is:

**“My Favorite Cooperative Principle.”** The 7 cooperative principles provide guidance for today's electric cooperative. List and explain, in your own words, the 7 cooperative principles. Select the principle you feel is the most important and explain why.



Visit [www.brec.coop](http://www.brec.coop)  
or scan this code  
for more information.

Below are some helpful links you may choose to use  
as you learn more about electric cooperatives.

[www.brec.coop](http://www.brec.coop)

[www.electric.coop](http://www.electric.coop)

[www.amec.coop](http://www.amec.coop)

[www.aeci.org](http://www.aeci.org)

[www.moyouthtour.com](http://www.moyouthtour.com)

[www.youthtour.coop](http://www.youthtour.coop)

[www.membersfirst.coop](http://www.membersfirst.coop)

[www.moelectriccoops.com](http://www.moelectriccoops.com)



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