



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 total, must write about part 1 and part 2) on the topic:

Black River Electric Cooperative believes in the importance of investing in young people who will become future members of BREC and leaders in their communities.

Part 1: Research BREC's 87-year history. In your opinion, what is the most impactful aspect about who BREC is and what it does?

Part 2: Explain what leadership roles you currently have (with school, family, community, etc.) and how this essay opportunity will help you continue to be a leader in the future.

2. Complete an application and student profile. The forms are available from your school's English teacher, visiting 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. Chat GPT and any other forms of AI cannot be used. Essay will be disqualified if AI is used.
3. Typed essays are preferred, but neatly handwritten entries are acceptable. Use one side of the paper.
4. Attach a **separate** title page with:

Your Name
Address
Phone Number
School Name

4. Essays must be postmarked by **March 6, 2026**. 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 Co-operative 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 14, 2026. The delegates will depart the next day for their week in Washington, D.C.!



Black River Electric Cooperative Youth Tour Essay Contest

**Thank you for your interest in the 2026
Black River Electric Cooperative Youth Tour Essay Contest!**

This year's topic is:

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**Visit 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.

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www.electric.coop

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www.youthtour.coop

www.membersfirst.coop

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