

BEACON

 Amicalola Electric
Membership Corporation

"Owned By Those We Serve"

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WYT DELEGATES

Among Georgia's best and brightest

By Lindsay Penticuff



Georgia's 2024 Washington Youth Tour delegation poses in front of the White House in Washington, D.C.

CHRISTY CHEWNING

Georgia's 112 delegates representing 37 electric membership cooperatives (EMCs) were among nearly 1,800 high school students nationwide who visited Washington, D.C., in June for the Washington Youth Tour (WYT).

The event, June 14-21, was the 59th year Georgia's EMCs sent students on the Youth Tour.

Once a year, high school students are selected by the state's EMCs to represent Georgia as delegates on the all-expenses-paid trip. This leadership experience includes meeting with state and national leaders, leadership training and visits to many major sites.

"The Washington Youth Tour continues to bring the best and brightest students from across our state together for a fast-paced week in Washington, D.C.," says Andy Paul, WYT Director and Public Relations Representative with Tucker-based Georgia EMC. "Our goal is for Georgia's delegates to learn about history and leadership while on the trip and, most importantly, be excited about returning home afterward to share the cooperative difference within their communities."

MORE ▶



KATHRYN GREEN

Amicalola EMC Washington Youth Tour delegates Deacon Shull, Addyson Poole, Farah Jones and Tlung Mang visit Washington's Mount Vernon estate.

Georgia students experience nation's capital

The Washington Youth Tour experience gives delegates an opportunity to visit as many as 25 of Washington, D.C.'s most historic sites, as well as participate in team-building activities and events during which they can learn more about one another and meet delegates from throughout the United States.

Farah Jones of Jasper, Tlung Mang of Dawsonville and Addyson Poole and Deacon Shull of Ellijay were selected to represent Amicalola EMC for the 2024 Washington Youth Tour.

"A trip I will remember for the rest of my life," Deacon Shull says.

Addyson Poole said the Washington Youth Tour was one of the best experiences of her life. She admits, "I was nervous about going to D.C. without knowing anyone and I was nervous about making friends, but it turned out to be easy to get to know one another."

Amicalola asked each delegate to describe their experience in three words. Some of those words were life-changing, exhilarating, educational, fun and connecting.



BETH McMILLAN

Amicalola EMC's delegates pose in front of the White House.



KATHRYN GREEN

Georgia delegates joined the United States Marine Band drum major for a fun group photo following the Sunset Parade during a visit to the U.S. Marine Corps War Memorial in Washington, D.C.

Where are they now?

Tucker Green, 27, enjoyed his experience so much as one of Amicalola EMC's Washington Youth Tour (WYT) delegates in 2015 that he didn't hesitate to say "yes" when asked to serve as a chaperone for the weeklong experience in 2022.

"When the opportunity presented itself, I didn't think twice about it," he says. "It was a great experience, just like my original trip as a delegate! I grew close with many people and made new friends, both with fellow chaperones and my group of student-delegates.

"It's been awesome to keep up with several of the students, too, as they've now started college. Chaperoning gave me encouragement for our future, with these bright young leaders on the horizon."

In reflecting on his own experience as a delegate, Green says his favorite takeaways from participating in the WYT are the friendships he developed and continues to hold dear.

"In one week, we went from being strangers to being like family," he says. "Several of my fellow delegates and I still keep up today. It's great seeing how everyone has started their lives and careers."

Green was one of four delegates selected to represent Amicalola EMC in 2015. At the time, he was a rising senior at Pickens High School in Jasper, where he was raised.

Today, Green is President of Jasper-based Tucker Green and Associates Inc., a government relations and associate management firm he started in 2020 that supports trade associations and small businesses, primarily in the construction industry.

"In this capacity, I serve multiple roles. I'm the registered lobbyist for several clients, representing their interests at the local and state levels," Green says. "Additionally, I serve as executive director for two trade associations, providing all necessary management services for their operations."

Green's wife, 24-year-old Kayla Roberson Green, grew up in Ellijay and was an Amicalola EMC delegate in 2017. She is Director of Communications for Georgia Speaker of the House Jon Burns.



Tucker and Kayla Green

The 2024 Washington Youth Tour included visits to the following sites:

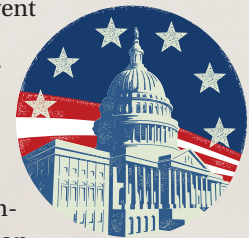


KATHRYN GREEN

- National Mall
- Smithsonian Institution
- U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum
- National memorials: World War II, Martin Luther King Jr., Franklin D. Roosevelt, Jefferson, Lincoln, Korean War Veterans, Vietnam Veterans, U.S. Marine Corps
- Arlington National Cemetery
- Lafayette Square at the White House
- George Washington's Mount Vernon
- Washington National Cathedral
- National Museum of African American History and Culture
- Library of Congress
- National Archives

Apply for the 2025 Washington Youth Tour

The 2025 Washington Youth Tour is scheduled for June 13-20. This all-expenses-paid event will feature visits to and tours of some of the United States' most iconic and historic venues, such as George Washington's Mount Vernon, the Smithsonian Institution, Arlington National Cemetery and the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum.



To learn more about the 2025 tour and to apply, please visit www.amicalolaemc.com, Community, Washington Youth Tour. If you have any questions, please contact Kadie Shaw at kadies@amicalolaemc.com or 706-253-5285.

GENERATOR SAFETY TIPS

Never connect a standby generator into your home's electrical system. There are only two safe ways to connect a standby generator to your equipment.



Stationary generator: An approved generator transfer switch, which keeps your house circuits separate from the electric co-op, should be installed by a professional.

Portable generator: Plug appliances directly into the outlet provided on the generator.

Set up and run your generator in a well-ventilated area outside the home. Make sure it's out and away from your garage, doors, windows and vents because the carbon monoxide generated is **deadly**.

Use a heavy-duty extension cord to connect electric appliances to the outlet on the generator.

Start the generator first **before** connecting appliances.

Source: SafeElectricity.org

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Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language, etc.) should contact the responsible agency or USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600

(voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

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(1) mail:

U.S. Department of Agriculture
Office of the Assistant Secretary
for Civil Rights
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20250-9410;

(2) fax: (202) 690-7442; or

(3) email: program.intake@usda.gov.

Amicalola Electric Membership is an equal opportunity provider.

2024 Service Awards

5 YEARS

Jacob Gordon
Nicholas Thomas
Corey Waters
Alan Duren
Justin Duggan

15 YEARS

Sonny Jones
Clinton Sanford

20 YEARS

Clayton Patterson
Gina Pettit
Jason Ledford
Andy Bradshaw

25 YEARS

Jeff Chastain
Chad Cofield
Vickie Shackelford

30 YEARS

Johnny Parris

35 YEARS

Tony Helton

Directors earning service awards

40 YEARS

John H. Bennett Jr.



CEO Todd Payne congratulates John Bennett on 40 years of service to the Amicalola EMC Board of Directors.

Are we holding your money?

Local electric cooperatives operate at cost, which means any excess revenues are returned to members in the form of capital credits refunds.



To find out if you have an unclaimed refund, please call 706-253-5200 or visit any Amicalola EMC office.

After a mandatory five-year waiting period, any unclaimed capital credits refunds are distributed in accordance with Georgia's unclaimed property laws O.C.G.A. §44-12-236.