

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

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## THE VICTORY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

# electronews



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### FROM THE MANAGER Youth Tour

Over the years, you may have noticed we feature the Youth Tour program prominently in this newsletter. The electric cooperative Youth Tour program in Kansas started in 1960 when several states realized the need to educate our youth on cooperatives and the legislative process. Out of this need, the Youth Tour program arose. Every year, thousands of youth converge in Washington, D.C., for an educational and fun experience.

Students travel around the city of Washington, D.C., visiting the memorials, museums and other sites that tell the story of our nation's history. They also visit with several congressional members from our state about the issues they are facing in the legislature.

Also as a part of our Youth Tour program, we send students to the Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp in Steamboat Springs, CO. The camp is a cooperative effort among four states, Kansas, Oklahoma, Wyoming and Colorado. At camp, students learn about the cooperative difference and participate in activities such as touring a coal-fired power plant, and forming a candy cooperative.

We continue to support youth programs such as these because we see the impact on the students who participate. Students learn the value of cooperatives and being an active participant in the democratic, legislative process. On the following page, the students who went to Washington, D.C., this summer have written about their recent trip and the impact it had on their lives. Next month, you can look forward to reading about Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp.

'Til Next Time, TJ



Terry Janson

“They visit with several congressional members from our state about the issues they are facing in the legislature.”

Victory Electric's office will be closed Monday, Sept. 6, 2010, for Labor Day!

**Closed**

## Local Students Travel to Washington D.C.

Durler and Heeke Participate in "Government In Action" Youth Tour Program

**Shelby Durler** and **Becca Heeke**, both of Spearville, toured the nation's capitol with 30 other students from across Kansas for the 50th Annual "Government in Action" Youth Tour June 10-17.

Kansas is one of the 45 states to send youth delegates to the annual electric cooperative youth tour. Durler and Heeke were selected through a competition by The Victory Electric Cooperative Assn., Inc.

Since 1960, the nation's electric cooperatives have sponsored the trips of more than 40,000 high school juniors to visit U.S. congressional members, energy and grassroots government education sessions, and sightseeing in Washington, D.C.

"Victory Electric is proud to support the Youth Tour program and

send our youth to experience government in action," said Terry Janson, Victory Electric general manager. "Our hope is that local students will gain some awareness of how our political system works and how important it is for the youth to be involved in our community."

The students began their trip touring the state capitol in Topeka followed by visits to the Wolf Creek Nuclear Power Plant and the Lyon-Coffey Electric Cooperative before flying to Washington, D.C.

The group also learned about the U.S. government through visits with Congressman Jerry Moran and Congresswoman Lynn Jenkins,, meetings with youth from other states, and tours of museums, Capitol Hill, Arlington National Cemetery, and the



Shelby Durler, left, and Becca Heeke, both of Spearville, traveled to Washington, D.C., with other student from around the nation as part of the "Government in Action" Youth Tour program.

White House.

"This year's student leaders were great representatives of both their electric cooperatives and their communities," said Shana Holsteen, Kansas Electric Cooperative youth director said. "They took advantage of the opportunities given to them in our nation's capital."

Victory Electric sponsors the trip of two students each year. The competition is held each spring. If you or your child will be a high school junior in the fall, and you would like more information please feel free to contact Victory Electric Youth Tour coordinators, Jerri Imgarten or Jerry King, at 620-227-21939 or 800-279-7915.

On the following page, both Durler and Heeke have shared some of their memories of the trip.



The Kansas and Hawaii Youth Tour students pose in front of the US Capitol.

## Shelby Durler

Spearville High School



This past summer, I had the privilege and honor of being one of the students selected to represent Victory Electric on the Youth Tour trip to Washington, D.C.

As I prepared for this trip, I expected this to be a week full of nothing but touring and hot weather. I was wrong! This trip turned out to be more than just a vacation, but a life-changing experience.

We visited an electric cooperative and Wolf Creek Power Plant. I learned just how much work is put into getting electricity to

my house.

After that we traveled to Washington, D.C. We visited so many places there isn't nearly enough time to tell about it all. My favorite part was Arlington National Cemetery and the Changing of the Guard at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.

Aside from meeting hundreds of people and making many new friends, I would have to say the most life changing part of this trip was the way I feel toward our nation. I have always been a very patriotic person, but being in the capitol of our nation just supplies you with patriotism that you cannot get from reading history books. Seeing the thousands of names on the Vietnam Wall or standing in front of the Iwo Jima Memorial sent chills through me and made me realize just how much time, work and sacrifice people have put into this country.

I would like to thank Terry Janson and everyone at Victory Electric who sponsored this trip and made it truly the trip of a lifetime. The people I give my highest appreciation to are the members of Victory Electric, because as a cooperative, you are not only customers, but member-owners. Therefore, without you, this trip would not have been possible. Thank you all so much for truly a week to remember!

Shelby

**This trip turned out to be more than just a vacation, but a life changing experience.**

## Becca Heeke

Spearville High School



This past June, The Victory Electric Cooperative sponsored me on the annual Youth Tour trip to Washington, D.C. I, along with 31 other students from the state of Kansas and four students from the state of Hawaii, toured the monuments, visited the memorials, and saw almost everything D.C. had to offer, like the Lincoln Memorial, Arlington Cemetery, and Mount Vernon.

Besides making life-long friends, my favorite part of the trip would have to be touring the nation's capitol and listening to a few of our Kansas legislators speak on topics such as BP and the oil crisis in the Gulf. I enjoyed this session because they are topics that really effect everyone in the US today, and it was interesting to hear the contrasting views of the legislators, but also how similar they were.

I come from a small town, so visiting such a big city was a shock to my system. I enjoyed every second of it, but it really makes me appreciate the midwest hospitality here in southwest Kansas. The great thing is that rural electric cooperatives are what allow us to live this way. Because of Victory Electric and other electric cooperatives, we can enjoy the peacefulness of rural living but also the technological benefits the big cities have. We really do have the best of both worlds.

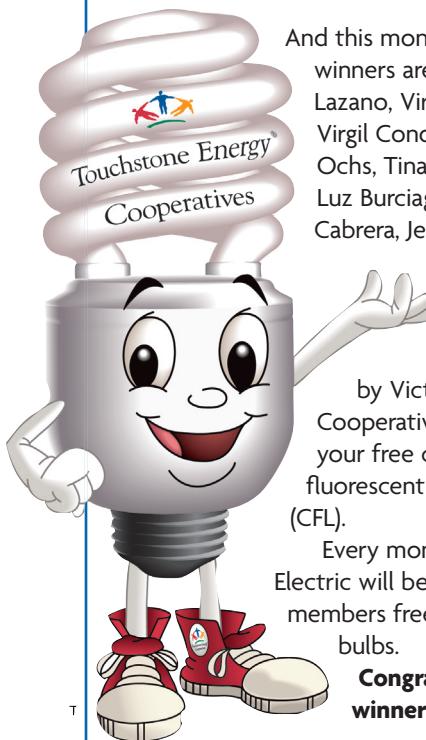
It's not possible to express my gratitude to all the people involved but there are a few shout outs I would like to give. I would like to thank Terry Janson and the whole Victory crew for this opportunity. Most of all I would like to thank you, the Victory Electric members, because Victory is a member-owned cooperative, so it is really you that gave me the trip of a life time.

Becca

**My favorite part of the trip would have to be touring the nation's capitol and listening to a few of our Kansas legislators speak.**

**CFL Charlie Says**

## "Come Get Your Free CFL Bulb!"



And this month's lucky winners are... Alex Lazano, Virgil Salem, Virgil Conda, Alan Ochs, Tina Burdett, Luz Burciaga, Francisco Cabrera, Jesus Castillo, and Jose Ceron-Velez.

Come by Victory Electric Cooperative and get your free compact fluorescent light bulb (CFL).

Every month Victory Electric will be giving members free CFL light bulbs.

**Congratulations winners!**

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