



November 13, 2020

Dear parent or guardian:

Suwannee Valley Electric Cooperative (SVEC) will sponsor a tour of Tallahassee, February 17-18, 2021, for up to 10 high school Juniors in our service territory. While in Tallahassee, the students will be introduced to the cooperative business model and Florida's legislative process. Possible activities include a tour of the state capitol, participation in a mock bill debate on the floor of the senate or house of representatives, and visits to the Florida Supreme Court and offices of our state legislators.

Due to the uncertainty of COVID-19, there is a possibility that the 2021 Youth Tour could get cancelled and/or modified to ensure the safety of all involved. If cancelled, SVEC will strive to provide participating students with a comparable experience in lieu of the in-person program.

**To be eligible for the tour, the student must be enrolled in the 11th grade of a high school, private school or home school in SVEC's service territory and have an unweighted grade-point average of at least 3.0. The student must also be a dependent of an SVEC member but cannot be a child or grandchild of a current SVEC employee or trustee.**

Students will be chosen to participate in the tour based on a 250-500-word essay on how cooperatives can reach out and engage with people of their generation. The essay and a completed tour application form (attached) must be received by SVEC no later than 4:30 p.m., January 22, 2021. Essays and application forms can be emailed to [communications@svec-coop.com](mailto:communications@svec-coop.com), hand delivered to our office at 11340 100<sup>th</sup> Street, Live Oak, or mailed to:

Youth Tour  
c/o Suwannee Valley Electric Cooperative  
P.O. Box 160  
Live Oak, FL 32064

A Statement of Parental/Guardian Consent and Release will be required for each student chosen for the tour. Students will miss two days of school, leaving Suwannee Valley Electric Cooperative at 8:00 a.m. on Wednesday, February 17, 2021 and returning on Thursday, February 18 at around 4:00 p.m. If a chosen student is unable to attend the tour, an alternate will go in their place.

SVEC will supply transportation and chaperones to and from Tallahassee. Hotel accommodations will be at the Fairfield Inn & Suites or Hampton Inn in Tallahassee, FL. Each room will be shared by two students of the same gender. All expenses will be paid by SVEC, but students may wish to bring a small amount of money for personal use and incidentals.

Two of the students who go on the Tallahassee tour will also be selected to represent SVEC in Washington, D.C. for the National Rural Electric Youth Tour tentatively scheduled for June 16-21, 2021. They will be flown to Washington and join students from around the country on visits to sites such as the Lincoln Memorial, Arlington National Cemetery, Smithsonian and Mount Vernon. SVEC will pay for the trip.

Students will be selected for the tour of Washington, D.C. based on their essay mentioned above, the quality of their participation during the Tallahassee tour, and their score on a written quiz covering facts they will learn about SVEC.

## YOUTH TOUR APPLICATION

*Please Type or Print and return to SVEC by 4:30 p.m., January 22, 2021*

1. Name of Student/Applicant: \_\_\_\_\_
2. Name of Parent/Guardian(s): \_\_\_\_\_
3. Parent/Guardian's SVEC Account Number: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Used only for member verification purposes)
4. Home Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City State Zip
5. Telephone Number: \_\_\_\_\_
6. Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_
7. School Attended: \_\_\_\_\_
8. Grade in School: \_\_\_\_\_
9. Unweighted GPA (9th-11th Grade): \_\_\_\_\_
10. Adult t-shirt size: S M L XL XXL
11. Please write and attach an essay of 250-500 words titled "How cooperatives can reach out and engage with people of my generation."

By signing below, we acknowledge that we have each read and understand the entire application form and do hereby certify that we understand the contents of the application package. Also, by signing below, we each certify that the information provided on the application form is true and correct. If any of the information provided on the application form is found not to be true and correct, the student applicant will be immediately disqualified and, if the student applicant has been chosen to participate in the Youth Tour, an alternate will take his or her place on the tour.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature of Student/Applicant: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature of Parent/Guardian: \_\_\_\_\_