



YOUTH TOUR 2026 CONTEST RULES

Dates: June 14-20, 2026

The essay topic for the 2026 Contest Essay is:

All cooperatives share a concern for their communities. Write about how your local cooperative supports your community and detail new ways they could get involved.

Deadline: November 26 by 5:00 p.m.

YOUTH TOUR CONTEST RULES

1. The student must be a junior or senior in high school in the fall of 2026. (Currently a sophomore or junior)
2. The student cannot be a prior winner of the youth tour.
3. The student and/or parent or legal guardian must be served by Lower Yellowstone Rural Electric Cooperative (LYREC), which is a member of Montana Electric Cooperatives' Association.

The student must write an essay on the following topic: *All cooperatives share a concern for their communities. Write about how your local cooperative supports your community and detail new ways they could get involved.*

4. Essays must include a cover page with the student's name, address, telephone number, and the name of their rural electric cooperative and a copy of the attached application.
5. Essays should be no more than two double-spaced pages.
6. Cooperatives may run an applicant's essay through an AI detection program. Use of AI could prevent the application from being considered.