

2021 Youth Tour Essay and Scholarship Contest Guidelines:

Topic of Essay: **What do you find most interesting about rural electric cooperatives?**

Each entry must be an original essay by the student

- Essay should consist of 750 to 1000 words.
- Please type the essay double spaced on one side of the paper.
- Do not write your name on the essay, your name should only appear on the entry form.
- Staple the completed entry form to the essay in the upper left-hand corner.

Essays will be judged and selected on the following Criteria:

Content	40%
Originality	35%
Grammar	20%
Neatness	5%

ESSAYS ARE DUE TO THE CHEC OFFICE BY: 5:00 p.m. Central Time - Tuesday, February 16, 2021
Essays can be emailed to bmartin@cooksonhills.com or dropped off at either the Stigler or Sallisaw Cookson Hills Electric office locations.

Youth Tour Rules:

- Students must be a junior in an accredited high school, or be homeschooled within the CHEC service territory.
- Each school may submit up to two essays for judging.
- School teachers/sponsors are responsible for selecting up to two essays which will be submitted to Cookson Hills Electric Cooperative for judging.
- Round 1 of judging: All entries are initially judged and narrowed down to eight finalists.
- Round 2 of judging: The eight finalists attend a short interview at CHEC office on March 25, 2021. (Subject to change to a virtual format) Finalists will need to be familiar with the **Co-op 101** booklet. Each finalist will be asked a question from this booklet during the interview. You can download **Co-op 101**, and find YT entry forms on our website <https://www.cooksonhills.com> under the Community tab, then select Youth Tour. The four winners are selected from the finalists at the conclusion of the Round 2 interviews.
- Essay winners will attend a local banquet in April and present their essays orally before the CHEC Board of Trustees and staff – This is required to participate in the Youth Tour program and receive the scholarship. (Banquet subject to change/cancellation)
- Obtaining the first half of the scholarship funds - Students must submit a college/technical school class schedule verifying full-time enrollment status.
- Obtaining the second half of the scholarship funds - Students must successfully complete the first semester, submit a transcript verifying a minimum 3.0 grade point average for first semester, and a college/technical school class schedule for the second semester verifying full-time enrollment.
- Students must conduct themselves in a respectable manner. If for any reason CHEC deems a student has presented themselves inappropriately, they may be removed from the program.