

2013 Youth Tour Contest

Share your ideas with us and you could win a week-long trip to Washington, D.C., where six high school students will join other youths from across the country on a June 13-21, 2013, expense-paid trip to our nation's capital.

The Youth Tour delegation will tour several historical sites, including:

- Arlington National Cemetery
- Capitol Hill Tour
- Lincoln Memorial
- U.S. Supreme Court
- Tomb of the Unknown Soldier
- Mount Vernon
- Washington National Cathedral
- Smithsonian Institution

The United Nations designated 2012 as the International Year of Cooperatives, the theme which is "Cooperative Enterprises Build a Better World." Cooperatives have a positive effect in their communities, and include businesses such as REI, Cabot Cheese, Nationwide Insurance, and electric cooperatives like PEC.

Essay Topic

Develop a cooperative business with an environmentally sustainable product. Explain the advantages of cooperative membership, the business structure, and the impact on economic development in the community.

Application Guidelines

Eligibility Requirements

- Contestants must have completed their sophomore, junior, or senior year of high school by June 2013, and their parent or legal guardian must be a PEC member or receive PEC service at their residence.
- Former contest winners who have participated in past Youth Tour trips to Washington, D.C., are not eligible.
- Essays must adhere to the topic above and follow essay format requirements as outlined below.

Essay Format

- Essays must be typed, double-spaced, 12-point Arial font, and single-sided on plain, white 8 ½ x 11-inch paper with 1-inch margins on all sides.
- Essays should not exceed 700 words.
- A bibliography is required and should contain all sources that provided usable information, including oral interviews.
- Do not include your name in any portion of the essay.
- Essays will be judged on content, grammar, and originality.
- Essays should be text only, and should not include pictures, graphic images, or diagrams.
- Essays that are off-topic will be declared ineligible.

Application Submission

- Students are required to submit their application and essays via our PEC website, www.pec.coop/youthtour.
- Essays that are mailed or dropped off at PEC offices will not be considered eligible.
- If unable to submit essay online, please email: YouthTour@peci.com and include name, address, contact phone number, and attach essay.
- Entries must be submitted online by Wednesday, October 17, 2012, at 11:59 p.m.

Finalist Selection

- Twelve finalists will be chosen to present their essays to a panel of three independent judges at the Lower Colorado River Authority Redbud Center in Austin on Saturday, November 17, 2012.
- Presentations cannot exceed 10 minutes.
- After viewing and listening to the presentations, each judge may ask finalists one question regarding their essay and idea.

Awards

- The top six contestants will be declared winners of the expense-paid Youth Tour trip to Washington, D.C., at the November 17th event.
- The remaining six contestants will receive \$100 awards and serve as alternates in the event that one or more winners cannot attend the June 2013 trip.