

# GOVERNMENT-IN-ACTION YOUTH TOUR

WASHINGTON, D.C.

June 17-22, 2024



**Q: What do wildfires and electric vehicles have in common?**

**A: Both are essay/video topics for this year's Youth Tour contest!**

Continental Divide will select 3 high school juniors  
(2 winners, 1 alternate) for the

Government-in-Action Youth Tour, June 17-22, 2024.

Submit an essay or spoken word video on one of two topics:

1. Electric vehicles are a reality in America, with vast impacts on suburban and rural communities. What role should your cooperative take to accommodate their increasing presence?
2. Natural disasters from wildfires are increasing. What responsibilities does your cooperative have to ensure the safety of its members, particularly those in remote areas?

**T**he annual Government-In-Action Youth Tour is a collaborative effort between electric cooperatives across the country, the New Mexico Rural Electric Co-op Association and the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association. The competition is open to high school juniors whose parents or legal guardians are active CDEC account holders in good standing. Contestants are required to complete an application form and submit a 500- to 750-word essay or spoken word video, addressing one of the two topics. Entry deadline is Friday, Nov. 3, 2023, at 5 p.m. Visit [www.CDEC.coop](http://www.CDEC.coop) for entry form, or ask your school councilor.



**CONTINENTALDIVIDE**  
AN ENERGY & TELECOMMUNICATIONS COOPERATIVE

## 2024 Government-in-Action Youth Tour Essay Contest

### Official Entry Form

Entry Deadline: 5 p.m., Friday, November 3, 2023

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

High School: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Legal Guardian's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

CDEC Account No.: \_\_\_\_\_

Applicant Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Use one of the below methods to return entry form and video or essay.

**Hand-deliver:** Grants Office – 1821 Clif Lear Ave • Gallup Office – 2500 NM Highway 602  
Office hours are 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.

**Mail:** Continental Divide Electric Cooperative, Inc.  
ATTN: Leisha Sedillos  
P.O. Box 1087  
Grants, NM 87020

# 2024 Government-in-Action Youth Tour Contest

## CONTEST REQUIREMENTS

### *For essay submissions:*

- Essay submissions must be between 500 and 750 words.
- Writing should have clear flow, be grammatically correct, and free of spelling errors.
- Content should stay on-topic and be researched, with at least three (3) sources cited in APA format.
- **Do not specify your name, address, school, or any identifying information in your essay.** Any such information will be excluded to keep the contest fair and unbiased.
- Email, fax, mail, or hand-deliver your essay with your Youth Tour application.

### *For video submissions:*

- Video submissions must be between 5 and 7 minutes.
- **Applicants MUST remain off camera. Do not specify your name, address, school, or any identifying information in your video, or it will not be considered. This is to keep the contest fair and unbiased.** Spoken words should be clear, concise, and with minimal fillers (ums, uhs, and silent breaks). It is acceptable to read from a script.
- Content should stay on-topic and be researched, with at least three (3) sources cited within the speech. The presentation should be professional and polished.
- Upload your video to a sharing platform, such as YouTube or Vimeo and provide Continental Divide the link on your Youth Tour application. Videos can also be uploaded onto a flash drive or SD card and hand-delivered or mailed.

All essay and video submissions will be judged on the following four (4) characteristics:

- Content and Grammar (including spelling and correct word usage on essays)
- Clarity
- Overall presentation
- Factualness



**Entries must be received no later than 5 p.m., Friday, Nov. 3, 2023.**



## More about Youth Tour!



The NM Youth Tour director arranges airline flights, hotel accommodations, meals, visits with New Mexico's congressional and state lawmakers and schedules MANY educational and sight-seeing opportunities. The Youth Tour kicks off in Santa Fe where delegates meet top New Mexico lawmakers and tour our state's capital building and other government offices. The Youth Tour delegation then makes its way to Albuquerque for an early morning flight to Washington, D.C.



### Activities include:

- Visit to the offices of congressional representatives on Capitol Hill
- Discussions with legislators about current events
- Boat cruise on the Potomac River
- NRECA youth conference



### Tours include:

- Smithsonian museums
- Washington National Cathedral
- Mount Vernon, plantation home of George Washington
- Arlington National Cemetery (and a wreath-laying ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier)
- Ford's Theatre, location of Abraham Lincoln's assassination
- And several other national monuments!



### Delegates will learn:

- What makes cooperatives unique
- How cooperatives from all industries impact our daily lives
- The roles of our state and federal governments