



Visit to nation's capital inspires

# Youth Tour Students

## YOUTH TOUR STUDENTS

Left to right: Brooks McDill, Savanna Greer, James Carpenter, Kathryn Moss, John Carpenter, Callum Mann and Brack Rudolph



Cooperatives of Mississippi and nationally by the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA). This year, James and John Carpenter, Savanna Greer, Callum Mann, Brooks McDill, Kathryn Moss and Brack Rudolph represented Central Electric. James and John, the sons of Tommie and Brian Carpenter of Carthage, will be a seniors at Leake Central High School. Savanna, the daughter of Amy and Phillip Greer, will be a senior at Leake Academy. Callum, the daughter of Tina and Rudy Mann of Carthage, will be a senior at Leake Central High School. Brooks McDill, the son of Brenda and Ryan McDill of Walnut Grove, will be a senior at Leake Academy. Kathryn Moss, the daughter of Becky and Jeff Moss of Brandon, will be a senior at Hartfield Academy. And Brack, the son of Paige and Ben Rudolph of Carthage, will be a senior at Leake Academy.

These students were chosen to participate through an application and interview process in October 2018 during their junior year in high school. In February 2019, they attended the Youth Leadership Workshop in Jackson. Though the workshop and the Washington, D.C., trip are invaluable experiences for the students, the relationships they had the opportunity to make with like-minded peers from across the state and the country will be one of the most long-term and rewarding measures of the Youth Tour.

"Youth Tour has enabled me to experience some of the best memories," said Callum. "Not only have I been exposed to the wonderful parts of our nation's capital, but I've made lifelong friends. A huge thank you to all electric cooperatives."

During the seven-day Youth Tour, the students visited historical and cultural sites, monuments and memorials, such as the World War II Memorial, Korean War, FDR, Lincoln, Air Force, Jefferson, The United States Marine Corps War Memorial and the memorial dedicated to the victims of the tragic 9/11 terrorist attack at the Pentagon.

In addition, they also toured museums, including the Newseum, a seven-floor, interactive museum dedicated to first amendment rights, journalistic ethics and popular historic news events. Another favorite tour was the Smithsonian Museums of Air and Space, American History, Natural History and the National Gallery of Art. New additions this year included the National Portrait Gallery and the National Museum of African American History and Culture, both of which are a part of the Smithsonian Institute. Many students elected to visit the Bible Museum as well.



Above: As the 2019 National Spokesperson for NRECA, Wallace Bass, a representative for Central Electric, was invited back to Youth Tour to deliver his famous speech during Youth Day.



Top, left to right: Brack, James, Kathryn, Savanna, John, Callum and Brooks stopped for a photo in front of the Jefferson Memorial. Above: The students also visited the National Cathedral.

States National Cultural Center located on the Potomac River.

After a scenic drive down Massachusetts Avenue, also known as Embassy Row, the students enjoyed a guided tour of the Washington National Cathedral, the second largest cathedral in the U.S.

A respectful visit to Arlington Cemetery gave the students the opportunity to reverently look on for the changing of the guard. Here, they also visited the gravesites of several of our nation's prominent figures, including John F. Kennedy and Jackie Onassis Kennedy, where since 1963 the eternal flame still burns.

"My experience at Youth Tour was amazing," said Kathryn. "I met so many new friends and saw so many beautiful memorials. It was such an amazing week and I am beyond thankful for the opportunity I was given."

The pinnacle of each Youth Tour is the day spent on Capitol Hill. Freshman Rep. Michael Guest of Mississippi's 3rd Congressional District graciously continued the tradition of guiding the students on a VIP tour of the United States Capitol building that kicked-off with a tour of the U.S. House Floor.

"Being able to experience Youth Tour

was an incredible experience," said Savanna. "From the National Cathedral to the Smithsonians and everything in between, the amount of history learned about the foundings of our nation was phenomenal."

After the tour, the day was filled with special visits with our state's leaders. James, John, Savanna, Callum, Brooks and Brack visited with Rep. Bennie Thompson's staff in the Rayburn House Office Building, while Kathryn visited with Rep. Michael Guest's staff in the Cannon House Office Building. The students also had the opportunity to meet Sen. Roger Wicker and Sen. Cindy Hyde-Smith.

"The Youth Tour has been a dream come true," said John. "Touring the Capitol with all of the amazing people that this program has brought into my life has made it one that I'll never forget. I'm beyond thankful for this opportunity and the memories it has given me."

## Brian Long General Manager

"Everyone associated with Central Electric considers it an honor to take part in the Youth Leadership Program. This program continues to provide students each year with a unique experience to learn more about cooperatives and the ins and outs of government. This is a program that hones leadership skills and helps foster interest in civic duties. These young students will be the leaders of tomorrow, and we're investing in them today."

## FUN FACT:

Over the seven days of the Youth Tour in Washington, D.C., each student and advisor took more than 100,000 steps, 65 flights of stairs and walked a total of 50 miles!

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— Callum Mann