

Mitchell



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EMC

The news
you need to
know in
5 minutes!

CAMILLA, GEORGIA
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Local High School Students Will Spend Time Surrounded by the Best and Brightest

Four High School students will kick off their summer this year attending the 51st annual Washington Youth Tour (WYT), an all-expense paid leadership experience sponsored by Mitchell EMC and other the electric membership corporations in Georgia.

Selected by a panel of independent judges to represent Mitchell EMC, **Annie Bridges, Southwest Georgia Academy, Elizabeth Glass, Westwood Schools, Deondria Hawkins, Westover High School** and **Cole Williams, Baconton Community Charter School**, will join approximately 100 high school juniors and seniors from Georgia on the weeklong leadership event set for June 10-16 in Washington D.C. As Georgia's oldest leadership program for teens, the weeklong, once-in-a-lifetime leadership trip offers participants the opportunity to experience our government and our history up-close while having fun, making new friends, learning about careers in public service and gaining leadership skills.

According to EMC leaders and past participants, to be chosen for the trip is a real honor, particularly since candidates vie for a spot alongside other teens across the state who are community volunteers, student athletes, and members of respected academic organizations such as Beta Club, National Honor Society, Governor's Honors Program, Student Council, Key Club, Debate Club, Future Business Leaders of America, Interact Club and Science Olympiad, among many other prized clubs and associations.

According to Tony Tucker, President and CEO with Mitchell EMC, the Youth Tour was established with one thought in mind – to inspire the next generation of leaders. This year's tour, which takes place June 9-16, exposes students to the fast-paced world of politics, leadership and agenda-setting.

Each year the teens are challenged to consider the part they play in government and the cooperative movement, to become involved citizens and to consider careers in public service.

"These students represent the next generation of educated, engaged citizen leaders in our communities

and country," says Tony Tucker with Mitchell EMC.

"It's important for them, especially at this critical age, to experience the nation's capital, to see monuments and memorials honoring those who made sacrifices so that we can live and worship in a free society, and introduce them to students who share similar hopes and dreams but also come from a variety of backgrounds and different parts of the state and country."

Representatives from 11 area schools competed,

"The Washington Youth Tour was one of the most unforgettable weeks of my life. Everything I learned will help me become a successful leader."

As noted by a 2015 Washington Youth Tour Delegate

and the four winners were selected through a personal interview.

EMC leaders and former student delegates agree the Youth Tour has grown into an invaluable program that gives young Americans an experience that will stay with them for the rest of their lives.

When the group arrives in D.C., participants will have a unique opportunity to meet with their elected officials and discuss the issues that are important back home. Georgia's delegation will convene with more than 1,700 youth representing cooperatives across the nation and have the opportunity to mingle with peers from other states and exchange views concerning local and national issues.

Since 1965, the Washington Youth Tour has given 3,000 students in Georgia and more than 50,000 students nationwide the opportunity to take part in this once-in-a-lifetime experience. The program was initially implemented at the request of President Lyndon Johnson to "send youngsters to the nation's capital where they can actually see what the flag stands for and represents."

Mitchell EMC is a consumer-owned cooperative providing electricity and related services to approximately 15,575 members in Baker, Dougherty, Mitchell, Worth, Calhoun, Colquitt, Decatur, Early, Grady, Lee, Miller, Thomas, Tift and Turner counties.

A Community Partner Since 1937



Front Row L to R: Dru Ford, Westwood Schools; Madison Armona, Westover High School; Baylee Adams, Baconton Community Charter School, Carlye Cranford, Baconton Community Charter School; Dillon Blount, University of South Alabama. Middle Row L to R: Jenna Adams, Pelham High School, Madison Miller, Sherwood Christian Academy; Tayler Tanner, Worth County High School; Ashley Meyer, Baconton Community Charter School; Michael Collins, Westwood Schools, James C. Brim Memorial Scholarship. Back Row L to R: Lanier Freeman, Deerfield-Windsor; Matthew Tucker, Westwood Schools; Annie Bridges, Southwest Georgia Academy, Washington Youth Tour Delegate; Deondria Hawkins, Westover High School, Washington Youth Tour Delegate; Cole Williams, Baconton Community Charter School, Washington Youth Tour Delegate. Not Pictured: Kayla Austin, Pelham High School; Elizabeth Glass, Westwood Schools, Washington Youth Tour Delegate; Chandler Ricker, Lee County High School; D'Antonyia Sessions, Mitchell County High School; Hannah Singletary, Kennesaw State University.

Mitchell EMC Recognizes 21 Outstanding Students

Multiple scholarships for outstanding students were recently awarded through the Mitchell EMC Operation Round UP program. Ten high school graduates and two college students received scholarships in the amount of \$1,000 each. Four scholarships were awarded to students whose parents are employed at Mitchell EMC in the amount of \$500 each.

Mitchell EMC members enrolled in Operation Round up allow their bills to be rounded up to the next whole dollar. Not only is the donation tax deductible, but the amount of the bill is much easier to remember. And while it may not seem like much money, those funds make a huge impact on our local communities. Since the inception of the program in 2002, Operation Round Up has contributed more than \$1 million to community projects (including scholarships) within Mitchell EMC's service area.



**Mitchell EMC offices will be closed on Monday, July 4
in observance of Independence Day.**

We wish you a safe and happy holiday!

Promoting EMCs at the FFA Convention

By Gale Cutler

Georgia's EMCs were well represented at the April 28-30 Georgia FFA Convention in Macon. At the convention's Career and Trade Show, EMC volunteers talked to students about electric co-op careers and let them try on lineman gear and watch safety demonstrations, as well as shared information on the Co-ops Vote program with teens and advisers. Tri-County EMC provided a bucket truck, and Rayle EMC coordinated the Power Town safety demos.

Thanks to those who staffed the EMC Career Fair exhibit: Mitchell EMC's Sherrie Adams, Heather Green and Nathan Ireland; Rayle EMC's Richard Heard and Tim Coulter; Snapping Shoals EMC's Ken Ellington and Mike Moore; and TriCounty EMC's Kim Bonner, Joey Brown and Bruce Carroll. Carroll EMC's David Huddleston represented the co-ops on stage during the wiring contest award presentation. Many other EMC representatives helped with judging or attended the awards banquet, which was sponsored by Georgia EMC and the Georgia Farm Credit system.

Georgia FFA membership has topped 40,000 for the 2015-2016 school year—an increase of nearly 2,000 students over last year. This marks their 18th consecutive year of membership growth. The 2016-2017 state officers elected at the recent convention are: President Willie Sizemore, Lee County FFA; Secretary Lizzi Neal, Perry FFA; North Region Vice Presidents Kylie Bruce, Franklin County FFA, and Sadie Lackey, Gilmer County FFA; Central Region Vice Presidents Madison Parker, Johnson County FFA, and Nicole Bridges, Thomson FFA; South Region Vice Presidents Morgan Hart, Colquitt County FFA, and Courtney Barber, Ware County FFA.



KEYSTONE SAFETY WEEK

Nathan Ireland and Heather Greene attended Keystone's Safety Week on May 10, 2016. They talked with employees about the importance of electrical safety.

Operation Round UP Contributions

The Mitchell Electric Charitable Fund has awarded allocations from the monies generated by the “Operation Round UP” program. More than \$20,000 was approved for God’s Foundation Christian Academy, Albany Advocacy Resource Center, Albany Civil Rights Institute, and the Dougherty County Extension Office.

As the Operation Round UP program continues to grow and generate revenue, the Mitchell Electric Charitable Fund will be making more allocations to worthwhile community programs and services in the Mitchell EMC service area. Applications will be taken on an on-going basis. The application forms are available in the Mitchell EMC office in Camilla, or they can be downloaded from www.mitchellemc.com. **The next deadline for applications is August 9, 2016.** MEMC absorbs any administrative costs, so 100% of your donation goes to make life better for area citizens. More than \$1,044,000 has been returned to our communities.

Any non-profit organization in our service area is eligible to apply. Organizational applicants must complete an application and two spreadsheets. A committee of advisors meets quarterly to review the applications and make disbursements.

The Committee of Advisors will meet again in June to review the applications. For more information on the Mitchell Electric Charitable Fund or the Operation Round Up program, please visit www.mitchellemc.com.



The Margaret Jones Public Library used funds obtained from Operation RoundUp to install Little Free Libraries at Jefford’s Park in Sylvester, Warwick City Park,

Irene Hall Park, and Poulan City Park. The libraries were recently dedicated. Little Free Libraries are hand-crafted structures filled with constantly changing collections of books donated and shared by people of all ages and backgrounds. The Libraries are built to withstand weather of all kinds and hold 20-100 books. Originally designed to look like a one-room school or a “house of books,” the Libraries rapidly took on a wide variety of sizes, shapes, themes and other attributes. For more information on Little Free Libraries visit www.littlefreelibrary.org.



Employee SPOTLIGHT



Please join us in welcoming our newest employee **Nicholas LaPierre**. Nicholas is a Computer Support Technician in the Camilla Office, and joined the Mitchell EMC family in May.

Note: If you move or no longer have electric service with Mitchell EMC, it is important that members keep their address current, so that future disbursements can be properly mailed. Capital credits are reserved for members even if they move out of the Mitchell EMC service area. Mitchell EMC will make a diligent effort to send a check by mail.

Statement of Equal Employment Opportunity

All applicants for employment shall be considered and hired on the basis of merit, without regard to race, color, religion, sex (including pregnancy), age, national origin, disability, genetic information, or past or present military status. The employment practices shall ensure equal treatment of all employees, without discrimination as to promotion, discharge, rates of pay, fringe benefits, job training, classification, referral, and other aspects of employment, on the basis of race, color, religion, sex (including pregnancy), national origin, disability, age, genetic information, or past or present military status.

WATT'S COOKING



Creamy Ranch Pork Chops

Ingredients:

1 tablespoon vegetable oil
4 boneless pork chops (3/4-inch thick)
(about 1 pound)
1 can condensed cream of mushroom soup
3/4 cup milk
1 package of ranch dressing mix

Heat oil in a 10-inch skillet over medium heat. Add the pork chops and cook until brown on both sides. Stir in soup, milk and 1/2 package of ranch dressing mix in the skillet and heat to a boil. Reduce heat to low. Cover and cook for 10 minutes or until pork is cooked through.

Thanks!

to **Karen Singletary**,
Worth County, GA, for sharing
this recipe.

Share & Win!

Send us your favorite quick and easy dinner recipes. If your recipe is chosen for print, you can win a **\$25 credit** on your next Mitchell EMC bill.

Send recipes to Heather Greene, P.O.
Box 409, Camilla, GA 31730 or email to
heather.greene@mitchellemc.com.