



# YOUTH TOUR ESSAY COMPETITION

## 2025 RULES & GUIDELINES

**11th grade high school students in CHEC's service territory have the opportunity to win a free, all-expenses-paid "trip of a lifetime" to our Nation's Capital, Washington, D.C.!**

### ESSAY GUIDELINES

**Topic: Describe the difference between electric cooperative providers, investor-owned utility electric providers, and municipal electric providers, and tell us one advantage and disadvantage of each.**

- Essays should be 750-1000 words in length
- Please type the essay double-spaced on a single side of the page(s)
- Do not write your name on the essay. Your name should only appear on the attached entry form
- Staple the completed entry form to the essay

*Each entry must be an original essay by the student. The use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) is strictly prohibited, and will lead to disqualification from the competition. We want to hear from YOU!*

Essays will be judged and selected on the following criteria:

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

### CONTEST RULES

- Students must be juniors in an accredited high school or be homeschooled within the CHEC service territory. (Students do not have to live in a home powered by Cookson Hills Electric.)
- Students will submit one essay to their school's teacher/sponsor. School representatives are responsible for selecting up to four essays from their school and submitting them to CHEC by the application deadline.
- Students must conduct themselves in a responsible, appropriate manner. If a student presents themselves unprofessionally, they may be removed from the program.

### WINNER SELECTION PROCESS

- Round 1: All submitted entries received by **Tuesday, February 18th at 5:00 p.m.** are judged and narrowed down to ten semi-finalists.
  - Semi-finalists will be announced and notified on **Friday, February 28th.**
- Round 2: The ten semi-finalists will attend a short interview at the CHEC Stigler office on **Thursday, March 13th, at 9:30 a.m.**
  - From the interviews, four winners are selected to receive a trip to Washington, D.C. and a scholarship. Additionally, the remaining six semi-finalists will receive scholarships.

### BONUS COMPETITIONS

- Each student who shares the CHEC Youth Tour Facebook post scheduled for **Friday, January 31st, 2025** will be entered to win \$100 cash.
- Each student who submits an essay to his/her teacher will be entered for a chance to win \$100 cash. The essay does not have to be selected by your school as a top-four submission.
- Each teacher/school representative who submits a student essay to CHEC will be entered for a chance to win \$100 cash.
- Each teacher/school representative who submits a student essay that makes the Top Ten Semi-Finals will be entered for a chance to win \$200 cash.

### DEADLINE: Tuesday, February 18th by 5:00 p.m.

- Entries should be emailed to [mwalters@cooksonhills.com](mailto:mwalters@cooksonhills.com) by a school representative

### INTERVIEW DATE: Thursday, March 13th at 9:30 a.m. at CHEC's Stigler Office (1002 E. Main, Stigler, OK)

- The top four finalists will be announced at the conclusion of the interview process

**For any questions, please contact:**

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