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**PIONEER ELECTRIC
COOPERATIVE**

pioneer
electric
cooperative, inc.

NEWS

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In Case of an Outage

If your electricity is off for more than a few minutes, call 888-551-4140. After-hours calls will be answered by dispatch and forwarded to standby personnel.

Pioneer Awards \$2,500 H.U.G.S. Grant



Representatives from Pioneer Electric's H.U.G.S. team presented Ulysses High School (UHS) staff with \$2,500 for vinyl printing equipment.

Pioneer Electric Cooperative's Helping Us Give to Society (H.U.G.S.) representatives presented the Ulysses High School (UHS) Business CTE Department with a check for \$2,500 to enhance the school's student-run Skreened and U-Print design courses.

The grant will help the school purchase a vinyl printer and cutting machine, as well as ink color pouches to help students gain real-world business experience. The programs are designed to provide purposeful instruction while instilling meaningful content and concepts to students. Currently, students enrolled in Skreened and U-Print courses fill orders for various screen print projects.

"With the purchase of the new equipment, students will have the opportunity to learn how to create banners, vinyl t-shirt designs and other vinyl printing projects," said Suzann Bouray, teacher at UHS. "They will also learn how to work with local clients, take and process orders, create

designs and sell products. Our hope is that this will become a self-sustaining program and provide students with an understanding of all that is required to run a business. Thank you to Pioneer Electric and the H.U.G.S. grant program for the opportunity to diversify the students' graphic design skills."

The school hopes to offer this new service to the public after students become accustomed to the program and anticipates the new machines will be ready for use by this fall.

"We are excited to be able to partner with the school in this project," said H.U.G.S. member and Vice President of Energy Services Anita Wendt. "This is a great opportunity for students to get a first-hand look at maintaining a business. We hope that the school and the students get many years of use out of this new equipment!"

For additional information, contact UHS at 620-356-1380.



YOUTH TOUR 20





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CARSON MILBURN and **VANESSA REZA** were selected by Pioneer Electric to attend the 57th annual Electric Cooperative Youth Tour in Washington, D.C. From June 8 to 15, Milburn and Reza joined more than 1,800 high school students nationwide to experience our nation's capital, government and history.

Their journey began with a quick orientation and a night tour of the Kansas State Capitol. A late night made way to an early morning as any trace of tiredness was removed after bucket truck rides and a hearty breakfast with the staff of FreeState Electric Cooperative in Topeka. From there, they followed the yellow brick road out toward Washington, D.C.

Arriving in D.C., the pace of the trip only increased as each day brought new sights, sounds and stories to share. Delegates viewed various monuments, stood in silence at the Holocaust Memorial Museum, met the waxy doppelgangers of Madame Tussauds, danced with the “grandson” of George Washington at Mount Vernon and

paid respects at Arlington National Cemetery. New to this year's trip was a guided tour of the White House.

“The students were thrilled to be able to take the self-guided tour of this beautiful historical site,” Shana Read, director of communications for Kansas Electric Cooperatives and youth tour director, said. “As the tour was also on Flag Day, each student was given a flag while on the tour, fostering a strong sense of patriotism.”

Scattered between each adventure were brief moments for delegates to sit back and explore at their own pace. Milburn, Reza and their new friends paddled boats in the Baltimore Harbor, cheered at a professional baseball game, tried out sushi and purchased souvenirs.

“I made so many great friends on this trip and met a lot of people who were just like me,” said Milburn. “It was cool to experience that. It just goes to show that no matter where you are, you can be yourself.”

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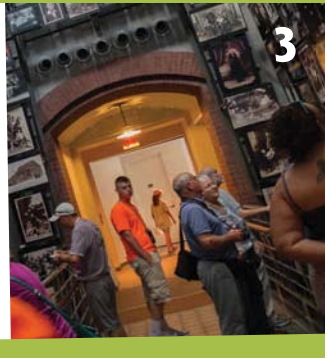
1. 2017 delegates stop for a quick rest and picture at the Franklin D. Roosevelt Memorial.
2. Say cheese! Pioneer delegate Vanessa Reza snaps a quick picture while exploring the city.
3. Crowds gather in remembrance at the Changing of the Guard at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.
4. Pioneer delegates Carson Milburn and Vanessa Reza tour the Capitol building.
5. A visit to the Vietnam Veterans Memorial had students searching for names from the past.
6. Delegates catch a quick break at Old Town Alexandria before continuing their adventures.
7. Delegates wave flags during Flag Day outside the White House.
8. Left to right: Vanessa Reza, Carson Milburn and Ben Black, Butler Electric Cooperative, enjoy the view of the reflecting pool and Washington Monument.



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1. FreeState Electric linemen give safety demonstrations and bucket truck rides to teach the Youth Tour delegates about electric co-ops.

2. The Kansas/Hawaii Youth Tour delegates attend the Sunset Parade at the Iwo Jima Memorial.

3. Students visit the Holocaust Memorial Museum and learn about the devastation that occurred during the Holocaust.

We met so many wonderful people on Youth Tour. Although we may have different personalities, we have the same mind-set and want to make our communities better places.

VANESSA REZA



Youth Tour 2017

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Along with their own delegation, students had the opportunity to meet with others from across the U.S. in various workshops and activities. Together, the record-breaking 1,800 students spent a day listening to speakers who encouraged them not to be afraid to stand up for change.

“You can’t really describe an experience like this,” said Reza. “We met so many wonderful people on Youth Tour. Although we may have different personalities, we all have the same mind-set and want to make our communities better places.”

Milburn and Reza learned about the cooperatives and the importance

of communities coming together to accomplish great things. National Rural Electric Cooperative Association CEO Jim Matheson spoke about the history of co-ops and their role in bringing electricity to rural America.

Delegates also had the opportunity to speak to Congresswoman Lynn Jenkins, Congressmen Ron Estes and Roger Marshall and Senators Jerry Moran and Pat Roberts. Our Kansas representatives gave students a look at the inner workings of our legislation. The legislators echoed the importance of community involvement and encouraged delegates to be active in representing topics important to rural Americans.

“What I love about this trip is

I’ve made some great friends on this trip and met a lot of people who were just like me. It just goes to show that no matter where you are you can be yourself.

CARSON MILBURN

that it challenges these students to look past themselves and see what they can bring to their communities and schools,” said Pioneer Electric Communications Specialist Drew Waechter.

“This is what a cooperative is all about. It’s looking past our differences and realizing there is so much we can do when we work together. It has been an honor to have these students represent Pioneer Electric, and I’m excited to see what they will accomplish in the future.”

Preparations for the 2018 Youth Tour are already underway, so keep an eye out during the fall 2017 semester for more information about the upcoming trip. Applications will be available to sophomores and juniors who attend Elkhart, Hugoton, Lakin, Moscow, Rolla, Stanton County, Syracuse and Ulysses high schools.

“Youth Tour is a great opportunity for our students,” said Waechter. “With the ongoing support of our members, we hope to continue this opportunity in the years to come!”

For additional photos and videos from the delegates’ journey, be sure to check out Pioneer Electric’s Facebook page or visit pioneerelectric.coop.

