

Rural Power

INSIDE

- 2 | **Calendar**
- 2 | **Scott Whittington seeks CoBank Director position**
- 3 | **Kansas Country Living: more than just a magazine**
- 4 | **Kansas youth prepare for Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp**

Kansas youth delegates visit legislators on Capitol Hill

Kansas electric cooperatives sent 33 youth from across the state on the 52nd annual Youth Tour to Washington, D.C. The tour, which was held June 14-21, taught the students about electric cooperatives and helped develop leadership skills. The trip also included an opportunity to meet government officials and visit national memorials.



Senators Jerry Moran and Pat Roberts visit with the Kansas youth tour delegates at the U.S. Capitol on June 19.

Kansas was one of 42 states to send a delegation to this annual youth tour.

During the trip, chaperones used social media to share photos to keep the student's families updated on all of the activities. As a result, Sen. Roberts began following the tour's "tweets", and Rep. Jenkins posted photos of the Kansas delegates

on Facebook and then joined the KEC Facebook page. There were many comments posted as the students kept busy on this educational tour.

"This trip has shown me so much history, good times, and how important my rural community is," said Katy Winkel, Rolling Hills. "I loved all the museums and really enjoyed the national aquarium. This trip was the trip of a lifetime!"

Winkel was chosen to be the 2012 Youth Leadership Council representative for Kansas, and will participate in NRECA's annual meeting in New Orleans, LA, in 2013.

For more information or to see photos of this year's youth tour, visit www.youthtour.org.

The group learned about the U.S. government through visits with Senators Jerry Moran and Pat Roberts, Congressmen Tim Huelskamp and Mike Pompeo and Congresswoman Lynn Jenkins. The students learned about cooperatives through a visit to Kaw Valley, and they toured many sites in Washington, D.C. including museums, the Capitol and Arlington National Cemetery.

"This trip has inspired me to do my part to change the world," said Dezirae Hamrick, Kaw Valley. "Anyone can be president, anyone can be a congressman or woman, anyone can be a senator, anyone can make a difference."



The students hosted a breakfast for the Kansas Congressional delegation. Congresswoman Lynn Jenkins (left photo, center), Congressman Tim Huelskamp (center photo) and Congressman Mike Pompeo (right photo) took the time to visit with the youth tour delegates and to pose for photos. More photos are available at www.kec.org.



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