



South Plains Electric
Cooperative, Inc.

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative
The power of human connections



CONTACT: Whitney Bryant
Public Relations Specialist
806.775.7829

DATE: November 22, 2022

Local Students Win Trip to Washington, D.C.

LUBBOCK, TX – David Kendrick and Gracie Potter from Shallowater High School and Ava Sims from Frenship High School will spend a week in Washington, D.C., thanks to South Plains Electric Cooperative. Through the Government-in-Action Youth Tour, an annual program sponsored by electric cooperatives nationwide, Kendrick, Potter and Sims will join about 100 fellow Texans for this trip of a lifetime June 11-19, 2023.

David Kendrick is a senior at Shallowater High School and is the son of Joe and Samantha Kendrick. Gracie Potter is a senior at Shallowater High School and is the daughter of Lyle Jason and Amanda Potter. Ava Sims is a senior at Frenship High School and the daughter of Scott and Gina Sims. Other South Plains Electric Cooperative representatives include: Gunnir Bateman, Spur High School; Corbin Daniel, Childress High School; Clancey Harris, Quanah High School; Melania Ramirez, Patton Springs High School and Meg Ridens, Childress High School. This year, South Plains Electric will send a record number of students thanks to Operation Round Up sponsoring four additional students for this trip.

The program evolved from an idea of then-Senator Lyndon B. Johnson, an advocate of rural electrification and youth supporter, who inspired cooperatives to send area students to the U.S. Capitol to see their American heritage and government at work. Since 1965, electric cooperatives in Texas have participated in the nationwide program, coordinated by Texas Electric Cooperatives, the statewide association. More than 3,800 Texas students have gone on the trip since its inception.

The events kick off in Austin, where students tour the State Capitol and its visitor's center, and the Bullock Texas State History Museum. Next, the students fly to Washington, D.C., and begin a whirlwind tour of the Nation's Capitol, visiting the Washington National Cathedral, Arlington National Cemetery, Mount Vernon, Smithsonian Institution, memorials and more. Activities include learning about rural electrification, seeing a performance at the Kennedy Center, going on a Potomac River boat cruise, and meeting elected officials.

For more information about the Texas Youth Tour, visit TexasYouthTour.com.

###