2026 Youth Leadership Program

# SUMMARY:

* The 2026 Youth Leadership Program is sponsored by Delaware County Electric Cooperative (DCEC):
* $1,000 Scholarship for post high school education or trade
* All Expense Paid Trip to Washington, D.C. for student and their chaperone (parent) April 26-29, 2025

The student and chaperone will join us in meeting with our nation’s political leaders and learn about our Nation’s legislative process. As a delegate, your primary goal is to learn how to lobby in government along with the importance of electric utilities.

The delegate from each New York Cooperative will further compete to represent all the New York State Cooperatives, as the Youth Leadership Council (YLCer) at the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) conference in 2027 in San Diego, CA. In addition to the possible trips, the YLCer will have further scholarship opportunities, leadership programs, and professional development.

# QUALIFICATIONS:

In order to be considered, students must meet the following qualifications:

* Be in their junior (11th grade) year
* Participate in extra-curricular activities and community service

# APPLICATION PROCESS:

Students interested in being considered for this scholarship must complete the below application and have it ***submitted to the office of the Delaware County Electric Cooperative by February 14, 2026***. Applications can either be sent by regular mail or emailed to: [memberservices@dce.coop](mailto:memberservices@dce.coop)

A completed application must include:

1. Completed form below
2. 1-page student essay describing yourself (including where you go to school, favorite subjects, extra-curricular

activities, and community service you have been involved in) and what you hope to get out of participating in the trip

1. Letter of recommendation from a teacher or administrator from your school
2. Be available to meet DCEC Board of Directors between 5:00-6:00 pm on Tuesday, February 24, 2026 either remotely or in-person

***Applicant***:

**Name:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Address:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Phone:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Email:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Parent/Guardian:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**School:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**