



Electric Power Associations of Mississippi

TWENTY - TEN YOUTH TOUR

Washington, D.C.



The Northcentral group of students visits Lafayette Park to get a better view of the White House (top photo). Rachel (left) and Alisha (right) stop for a photo while waiting to board their flight to D.C. (center photo). Stephanie (left) and Ciara (right) wait to go inside of Ford's Theatre while touring D.C. (bottom photo).

Northcentral Electric Youth Tour

A look back in history and a challenge for the future highlighted the 24th Electric Power Associations of Mississippi Youth Tour. A delegation of 50 Mississippi high school students recently participated in the annual visit to our nation's capital.

Alisha Seals of Byhalia High School, Rachel Byrd of DeSoto Central High School, Jerry Rodgers of Olive Branch High School, Stephanie Cardwell of Center Hill High School, Ciara Boyle of Marshall Academy and Peter Englert of Lewisburg High School represented Northcentral Electric Power Association during the 2010 Youth Tour. The seven-day trip featured visits to the major monuments and memorials, including the Washington Monument, the World War II Memorial and the Lincoln Memorial, to name a few. One of the highlights of the trip was a visit to the Kennedy Center. While there, the students enjoyed the theatrical production *Shear Madness*, one of the longest running non-musicals of all time.

The students also visited the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, toured the historic Mt. Vernon and then spent a day

touring the Capitol. The students attended the popular Sunset Parade at the Marine Corps War Memorial and enjoyed a performance by the U.S. Marine Forces Reserve Band. While visiting Arlington Cemetery, the students reverently watched the changing of the guard and visited the gravesite of President John F. Kennedy.

The students also enjoyed a visit to the Smithsonian Museums, Madame Tussauds Wax Museum and an evening cruise on the Potomac River.

In addition, the students attended a youth day event with more than 1,450 students representing electric cooperatives from across the nation. At this event, Mark Schlappi, an Olympic gold medal winner in wheelchair basketball, delivered an inspiring message. He challenged the young people to make a difference in the lives of others, no matter the problems encountered.

"A tragic event in my life made me a better person," said Schlappi, who was accidentally shot by his teenage friend. "I was determined not to let it wreck my life." He credits his mother for his success. "She told me, just because you can't stand up, does not mean you can't stand out."

The students spent a day at the Capitol, which began with a special tour of the



Jerry (left) and Peter (center) visit with Sen. Roger Wicker (right) while touring Capitol Hill.

Congressional House Floor, graciously hosted by Rep. Gregg Harper. After a tour of the Capitol, the six students joined a group who visited with Rep. Travis Childers. Rep. Childers encouraged the students to continue their paths of excellent leadership. He congratulated the students on their outstanding achievements and for being selected to participate in the Youth Leadership Program. While visiting on Capitol Hill, students also had the opportunity to meet with Sen. Roger Wicker.

The Youth Tour is part of an extensive youth leadership program supported by Northcentral EPA. "Now is the time to build-up these young leaders and make an impact on their lives," said Kevin Doddridge, general manager of Northcentral Electric. "The Youth Leadership Program is designed to help students develop the confidence and



The students stop for photos while visiting the Thomas Jefferson Memorial in D.C. (left).



The students visit the World War II Memorial. Back row, from left to right are: Alisha Seals, Rachel Byrd, Ciara Boyle and Stephanie Cardwell. Front row, left to right are: Jerry Rodgers and Peter Englert.

ability to become better leaders in their schools and communities."

Alisha is the daughter of Lee and Sharon Seals of Byhalia. Rachel is the daughter of Chris and Mary Byrd of Olive Branch. Jerry is the son of Jerry and Daisy Rodgers of Olive Branch. Stephanie is the daughter of Kevin Cardwell of Olive Branch. Ciara is the daughter of Bryan and Amy Boyle of Laws Hill. Peter is the son of Chris Englert and Mary Ann Penick of Olive Branch.

Northcentral EPA congratulates these students on their accomplishments.

"We cannot always build the future for our youth, but we can build our youth for the future."

- Franklin D. Roosevelt

Essay contest for high school juniors

Northcentral Electric Power Association is sponsoring the 25th annual essay contest on rural electrification. The theme for the essay is "Electric cooperatives: Meeting the needs of the people—yesterday, today and tomorrow."

The contest is open to all high school junior class members, including home-schooled students. Parents or guardians of participants are not required to be members of Northcentral Electric Power Association.

Winning students will receive an all-expense-paid trip to the Youth Leadership Workshop on March 2-4, 2011, in Jackson, Mississippi. At the workshop, the students will join other essay winners from other electric power associations to learn about member-owned cooperatives and how they operate. They will also learn about state government and meet with elected officials. The three-day seminar will include inspirational speakers and plenty of fun and fellowship. Students will also vie for an opportunity to spend a week in Washington, D.C., June 11-17, 2011, at the Washington Youth Tour.

For additional information and contest rules, contact Paul Beale or Janis Greene of Northcentral Electric Power Association at 662-895-2151. The deadline for turning in essays is November 17, 2010. Winners will be notified by January 19, 2011.