Steele-Waseca accepting 2020 Youth Tour applications to Washington, D.C.

To be eligible, the entrant must meet the following requirements:

1. The entrant is currently a high school sophomore or junior, and his or her parent(s)/guardian(s) are Steele-Waseca members. Dependents of Steele-Waseca employees or directors are not eligible to participate.

2. All entries must include: a) the completed application form below; b) answers to both essay questions typed on a 8.5" x 11" sheet of paper; and c) two letters of recommendation (one from an instructor, counselor, or community leader).

3. Return entries to: Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric, c/o Youth Tour Coordinator, 302 W. Main St., Steele-Waseca, MN 56083. Entries must be received in Steele-Waseca’s office on or before Friday, March 20, 2020. The two Youth Tour recipients will be notified by Friday, March 20, 2020. Each entry will be evaluated by a panel of judges for:

- completeness
- composition
- neatness
- ability to communicate
- school and community activities

Essay Questions:

1. Why would you like to be Steele-Waseca’s delegate to Youth Tour 2020? What do you hope to gain from the experience? Answer in 150 words or less.

2. Write a short essay on what commitment to community means to you. Include how you contribute to your community. Answer in 300 words or less.

School and Community Information (use a separate sheet of paper to list the following):

- All school activities – include letters and honors earned, positions held, etc.
- All community activities – include all church, community service and positions held.
- Work experience and any other information.

MREA is requiring that each participating cooperative’s delegate(s) report to the Crowne Plaza Airport located at 3 Appletree Square in Bloomington for an orientation session on Saturday, June 20, presently at 9 a.m. An afternoon flight to Washington, D.C., will follow the orientation session.

Wholesale rates staying flat in 2020

GRE board approves budget with no change to average wholesale electric rates

Great River Energy (GRE) won’t change its average electric rate when the cooperative begins a new fiscal year on Jan. 1, 2020. The recent approval of GRE’s 2020 budget with flat average wholesale rates fulfilled a promise the cooperative made to its membership at its June annual meeting.

“Great River Energy closed two power plants that were no longer economical to operate, modified the dispatch of its generation facilities to be more efficient, and reduced its debt levels resulting in less interest expense. ‘Smart, strategic moves have tempered upward pressure on rates,’ said Strobel. ‘We achieved our goal for 2020 and continue our work to keep costs competitive long into the future.’ GRE forecasts wholesale rates to remain relatively flat over the long term.

Wholesale electricity represents over half of the costs for each of GRE’s 28 member-owner cooperatives, many of which have seen electricity sales growth slow in recent years. Great River Energy forecasts 2020 energy sales to increase 1.2 percent over 2019. GRE achieved flat rates through traditional budget measures such as cost reductions. More importantly, however, flat rates stemmed from the lasting benefits of pivotal decisions made over the past five years.

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