

JAY DIEM PHOTOS

Eastern Shore Students Experience Washington Youth Tour



From pandas to politicians, high schoolers from electric cooperative service territories in Virginia, Maryland and Delaware got a thorough immersion in Washington, D.C., government, culture and activities during the 2019 Electric Cooperative Youth Tour.

Some 54 students from the three-state area visited monuments, met with their elected officials and staff members, and enjoyed camaraderie among their peers during the annual event, which ran from June 16 to 20.

Matthew Parks, Wynn Neville, Alexa Cobb, McKaley Parks and Robbie Sterling represented A&N Electric Cooperative during the 2019 NRECA Washington Youth Tour.

“We had an exceptional group of young people on this year’s tour,” said Andrew Vehorn, vice president of governmental affairs at the Virginia, Maryland & Delaware Association of Electric Cooperatives (VMDAEC) and Youth Tour director.

“They were enthusiastic and energetic, and even though we did our best to tire them out, they enjoyed experiences that will serve them and their cooperative communities well into the future,” Vehorn said.

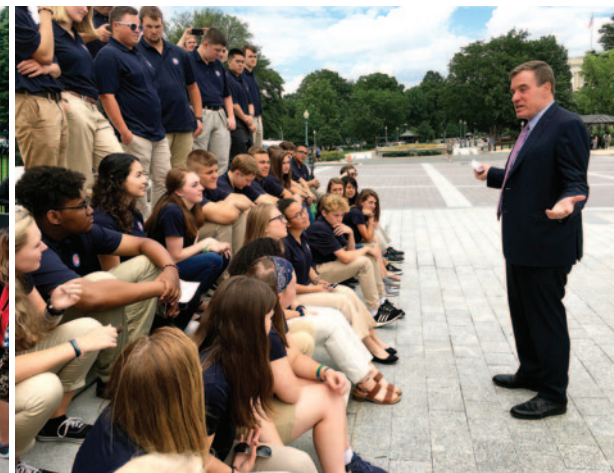
This year’s delegation from Virginia, Maryland and Delaware consisted of rising juniors and seniors from 12 cooperatives. Earlier this year, each cooperative selected its representatives for the all-expense-paid trip on the basis of applications, essay contests, interviews and supporting materials.

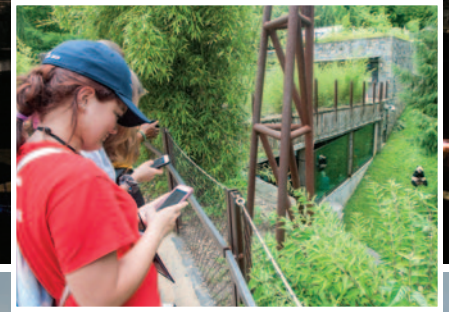
The first day of activities produced a visit to the Jefferson Memorial and a night cruise on the Potomac River.

Students also spent a day exploring the National Mall, visiting the Lincoln Memorial, the World War II Memorial, the African American History Museum and other attractions. A baseball game between the Washington Nationals and the Philadelphia Phillies was rained out, but youths got a chance to eat at the Nationals ballpark before returning to their hotel.

The tour also visited Arlington National Cemetery, the National Zoo,

Above, the A&N Electric Cooperative Youth Tour group in front of the Capitol building. From left, Matthew Parks, Wynn Neville, Alexa Cobb, McKaley Parks and Robbie Sterling. Right, the group, including chaperone Patsy Goard, pose in front of the White House. Far right, the entire delegation from VMDAEC listens to Sen. Mark Warner.





Above, the youths enjoyed a night cruise on the Potomac River.

the Pentagon, as well as Capitol Hill, where senators, representatives and their staffs met constituents who are soon to be of voting age. They also saw a performance of *Hello, Dolly!* at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts and swapped state pins with others on the tour.

“It’s a week of doing some of the most fun things you can imagine,” Matthew Parks said. “It’s a great time all around and one of the best weeks you’ll have in your life.”

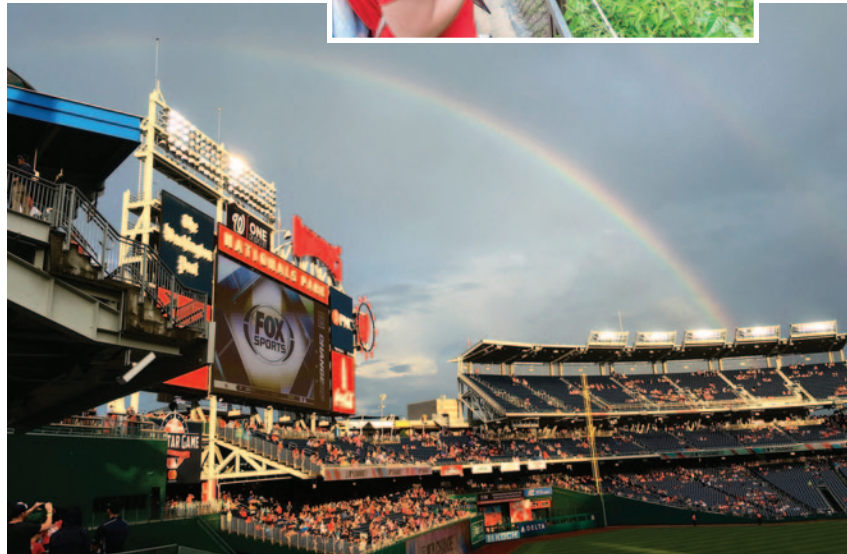
For many students and chaperones, the tour was a first-time visit to Washington. Others said they had been in Washington before, though they had not packed as much action into one visit.

In all, about 1,800 students from 43 states converged on Washington for the tour, which officially started in 1958 at the suggestion of then-Sen. Lyndon B. Johnson. The National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) oversees the tour in the belief that co-op youths should experience the nation’s capital up close and learn about the political process.

“During its time, Youth Tour has brought 50,000 students from rural America to Washington. It has proven to be a tremendous way of exposing our youngest members to the foundations that our country and our cooperative family were built upon,” said Richard G. Johnstone Jr., president and CEO of the Virginia, Maryland & Delaware Association of Electric Cooperatives.

For more information about the Youth Tour program, visit youthtour.coop. To learn how you can participate in A&N’s Electric Cooperative Washington Youth Tour opportunity, speak with your high school’s guidance office or contact Patsy Gourd at 757-787-9750, ext. 322. The essay contest to determine the cooperative’s 2020 Youth Tour participants will begin in October 2019. Essays can be submitted at your school’s guidance office or uploaded directly to the cooperative’s website at anec.com/content/youth-tour-application.

“It’s such a great opportunity that you could be a part of,” Wynn Neville said.



Above, the baseball game at the Nationals ballpark was rained out, but the youths got a chance to eat there. The tour also visited Arlington National Cemetery, the National Zoo, the Pentagon, as well as Capitol Hill, and many different memorials, museums and other attractions.

Cape Charles Museum & Welcome Center



Kimberly Denny, Cape Charles Museum & Welcome Center's executive director, stands among the wide variety of exhibits. The Historical Society has filled the museum with a rich collection of early postcards, photographs, documents and objects from the beginnings of Cape Charles in the 1880s. Left, the Busch-Sulzer diesel generator.

by Laura Emery, Field Editor

Young children peer through the Plexiglas window, wide-eyed with wonder.

The massive diesel generator's pistons and crankshaft chug along, the sound reverberates through the 1,300-square-foot museum despite the building's impressive 30-foot-high ceiling.

Kimberly Denny, Cape Charles Museum & Welcome Center's executive director, pulls the lever to bring the beast of a generator to a grinding halt. When silence again fills the relatively small museum, the children beg to see the demonstration again.

Denny smiles; it's clear that seeing visitors' response to the museum's industrial centerpiece never gets old for her. She explains that the museum's building once served as a peaking unit facility into the 1980s. The building was slated for demolition, but Cape Charles plant operator Jack Hickman alerted the

Historical Society and they were successfully able to petition the company's management for its donation to the Cape Charles Historical Society.

The generator on display, she explains, is a 16-1/2" bore Busch-Sulzer diesel fuel injection model that was re-engineered upon the museum's opening in 1996 to run off a small electric motor as a demonstration unit. The diesel that once fueled the engine was delivered by rail, which is an important point considering the town of Cape Charles was laid out in 1884 to be the southern terminus of the newly formed New York, Philadelphia & Norfolk Railroad. It was also the transfer point to Norfolk for passengers on elegant steamers and for freight on barges.

In fact, Denny points out that there's now a line of seven historic railroad cars, including a diesel locomotive and a caboose, just behind the museum. When she mentions that visitors are allowed to walk through the caboose, the children squeal excitedly.

The museum is filled with a variety of exhibits, but its truest treasure lies in the knowledge shared by the museum's pleasant staff. Dedicated weekend volunteer docents join weekday guide Mary Morris in greeting visitors and telling the stories of Cape Charles' past. With a soft-spoken voice that can't disguise her passion and excitement for the information she's delivering, Denny also brings history alive for visitors — young and old — as she guides them through the museum.

The Historical Society has filled the museum with a rich collection of early postcards, photographs, documents and objects from the beginnings of Cape Charles in the 1880s; its churches, schools, harbor, beachfront, commercial enterprises, railroad and ships.

"The history is displayed through exhibits on Eastern Shore sailing vessels, steamers, workboats, barges, ferries and the Chesapeake Bay-Bridge Tunnel. We have a large collection of railroad china, switch locks, Indian artifacts and school

memorabilia. Now, visitors to our grounds can also experience our train car collection as well as the Pilot House of the railroad carfloat barge, Captain Edward Richardson, too,” Denny says. The Cape Charles Historical Society’s mission is to preserve the history of Cape Charles and the lower Eastern Shore.

“We get a nice combination of visitors, locals and visitors traveling through from other places. Cape Charles has recently blossomed as a destination for part-timers, vacationers and weekenders. As a result, we’re seeing more and more people from different areas,” Denny says of the museum’s growing traffic.

If the diesel generator and walk-through caboose aren’t enough to entertain visitors, Denny starts talking about the largest known crater in the United States. It was blasted out 35 million years ago by a 2-mile-diameter bolide traveling at up to 134,000 mph. The crater shaped the lower Chesapeake Bay and drastically altered Eastern Shore groundwater aquifers. Rock samples from cores drilled in 2005 and 2006 are displayed in the museum with a video and accompanying information.

“We have a variety of things on display — some exhibits directly relating to the town of Cape Charles and some exhibits directly relating to this general area. We have exhibits that move in and out of the museum, but we also try to maintain ongoing displays, which are mostly about the ferries, the railroad and Chesapeake Bay impact crater,” Denny explains.

Cape Charles is a special place to visit; an experience, if you will. With its niche

shops, art galleries, specialty restaurants and historic homes, Denny loves Cape Charles even though she and her husband, Pieter, reside in nearby Eastville. “There’s a sense of local uniqueness,” she says. The historic part of the town was laid out by Alexander Cassatt and William Scott, the town’s 19th-century founders. The local architecture has a lot of aesthetic appeal as well as historic interest due to the wide variety of styles. There are even fine examples of the Sears & Roebuck mail order houses, which were popular in the early part of the 20th century.

“We have a walking tour that we have developed of the Cape Charles historic district that takes you through these different places. We have just been awarded a Northampton County Tourism grant to convert the walking tour to a smartphone app, which is very exciting. The Cape Charles Town has been good about preserving the historical character of the downtown area. It gives a real nostalgic sense when you walk through it; you really

do feel like you’re walking through history,” she says.

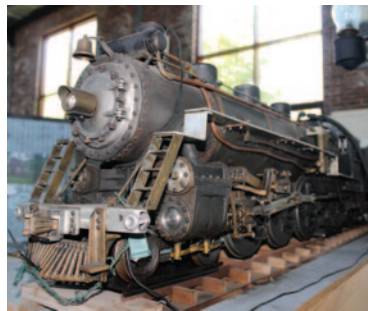
Twice each year the Historical Society holds fundraising events: a Low Country Shrimp Boil on the Saturday of Garden Week, the last weekend in April, and an Oyster Roast on the Saturday after Thanksgiving. Tickets are \$40 (\$50 for non-members) and are available through the website.

The museum is open daily from mid-April through November. They encourage people to come by and see all the wonderful things on display.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Cape Charles Historical Society
P.O. Box 11, Cape Charles, VA 23310
capecharlesmuseum.org
Email: capecharlesmuseum@gmail.com

For information on exhibits, research materials and special events, or to request openings by appointment, call 757-331-1008 or 757-607-6018.



LAURA EMERY PHOTOS



Above, the largest known crater in the United States shaped the lower Chesapeake Bay about 35 million years ago. Rock samples from cores drilled in 2005 and 2006 are displayed in the museum with a video and accompanying information. Right, the caboose that visitors can walk through and other items of interest.



If you go:

WHEN: Saturday, Oct. 5th, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

WHERE: 7247 Young Street, Machipongo, VA

COST: Admission is free. \$10 for children's activities

INFO: northamptoncounty chamber.com



Northampton Agriculture Fair is Oct. 5th



Now in its fourth year, the annual Northampton Agricultural County Fair continues to grow as a popular fall event on the Eastern Shore.

This family-friendly event is free and open to the public and will take place on Saturday, Oct. 5, behind the former Northampton Middle School in Machipongo from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

The County Fair continues the legacy of the Eastern Shore's Agri-Fair, which annually celebrated the Eastern Shore's agricultural industry in the 1970s, '80s and early '90s.

Admission for the fair is free, but children can pay \$10 and take part in a number of activities including horse and hay rides, pumpkin painting and face painting, among other activities.

Popular returning events include the skillet-throwing competition, Cape Charles Lions Club's Roll-a-Keg, pie-baking contest and more.

A&N Electric Cooperative will host a scheduled climbing demonstration during the event. The cooperative will also have employees on hand to answer questions, show off some of our climbing and safety gear, and will have free giveaways.

In addition, the fair will offer farming education for all ages and local vendors will be selling their local goods.

The event is organized by the Northampton County Chamber of Commerce, Virginia Cooperative Extension and Virginia Farm Bureau Young Farmers Eastern Shore.

★ Happy Labor Day ★

OFFICE CLOSING – Monday, September 2nd

- ★ The A&N Electric Cooperative Tasley office will be closed on Monday, Sept. 2, in observance of Labor Day.
- ★ If you experience an outage or power emergency during this time, please report it by calling 757-787-9750 or by using our SmartHub app.
- ★ Our office will reopen for regular business hours on Tuesday, Sept. 3. Please have a safe and happy holiday!

Look for Capital Credit refund on your August billing statement

Being a member of A&N Electric Cooperative means you share in its financial success. As a not-for-profit business, the cooperative takes revenue that exceeds expenses and allocates those funds back to you, the member, in the form of capital credits.

For active members, information concerning capital credit allocation is printed annually on your billing statement after the financials for the previous year are completed. Inactive members will be mailed a separate notice.

The amount of capital credits earned in a given year is based on the amount of electricity purchased during the designated year retired.

Each year, the A&N Electric Cooperative Board of Directors reviews the financial condition of the cooperative to determine if a retirement of capital credits can be made. Capital credits are retired using a percentage method that distributes a portion of the approved retirement amount to all members.

The cooperative works hard to keep costs as low as possible while maintaining electric reliability and safety. That commitment to our members has led to the return of over \$25 million in capital credits since the cooperative was established.

Look for your capital credit refund on your August billing statement.



Chincoteague Cultural Alliance hosts 16th Annual Plein Air Show

Chincoteague Cultural Alliance will sponsor its 16th Annual Plein Air Show and Sale, which will feature more than 50 artists from seven states.

Plein Air means painting outdoors, on location, capturing the scene before the light changes. Different artists use a variety of techniques and visitors are able to watch the artists create on Chincoteague and Assateague throughout the week.

A quick draw contest will be featured in downtown Chincoteague on Sept. 12 from 1-3 p.m.

The Plein Air Art Show paintings will be on display and for sale at a free evening gala from 6-9 p.m. on Sept. 14 at the Chincoteague Center.

Chincoteague Cultural Alliance, a nonprofit community arts organization, will use the proceeds from the event to promote the arts on Chincoteague Island and to provide scholarships for local high school students. For more information, visit chincoteagueca.org.

Advanced Metering Infrastructure Update

A&N Electric Cooperative has begun full deployment of its Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) system upgrade.

The cooperative began meter exchanges last month in southern Northampton County. Those meter exchanges will continue northward through the rest of the Eastern Shore peninsula until full deployment is completed. Co-op members can expect to receive an automated phone call the week of their meter exchange.

The upgraded meter system will enable the cooperative to perform several functions, such as reading meters, assisting with outage restoration and will support additional value-added services for our members.

For more information, log onto anec.com.

MESSAGES FROM YOUR CO-OP

- Visit us at facebook.com/ANElectricCoop and "like" us.
- Visit anec.com to sign up to receive Beat the Peak emails or text-message alerts.
- The **Touchstone Energy® Co-op Connections® Card is FREE to all ANEC members.** The card offers discounts at participating local and nationwide businesses, including prescription drug discounts.



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Local Pages Editor
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A&N Electric Cooperative is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Solar Made Easy



**COOPERATIVE
SUNSHARE™**

Cooperative Sunshare gives ANEC members the power to embrace even more clean, renewable energy.



Looking to take advantage of solar energy, but can't install panels on your property? Are the upfront and ongoing maintenance costs of a personal solar array holding you back? Cooperative Sunshare is designed for you.



Through Cooperative Sunshare, residential members may purchase 50-kilowatt-hour (kWh) blocks of solar energy.



A 50-kWh block is \$5.42, plus delivery costs. While higher than standard electricity, solar blocks will remain the same price for 3 years and are not subject to Power Cost Adjustments.



Log onto www.anec.com or call us at 787-9750 to learn more.

Subscribe Today!

HARVEST SAFETY TIPS FOR FARMWORKERS

- **Maintain a 10-foot clearance** around all utility equipment in all directions.
- **Use a spotter and deploy flags** to maintain safe distances from power lines and other equipment when doing field work.
- **If your equipment makes contact with an energized or downed power line, contact us immediately** by phone and remain inside the vehicle until the power line is de-energized. In case of smoke or fire, exit the cab by making a solid jump out of the cab, without touching it at the same time, and hop away to safety.
- **Consider equipment and cargo extensions of your vehicle.** Lumber, hay, tree limbs, irrigation pipe and even bulk materials can conduct electricity, so keep them out of contact with electrical equipment.

Source: Safe Electricity



AMERICA'S ELECTRIC
COOPERATIVES