



# Plugged in to Altamaha EMC

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## The Washington Youth Tour

### A Trip to Remember

**E**nergized with unlimited potential, a select group of high school students from electric membership corporations (EMCs) across Georgia gather each year to experience endless opportunities as they tour Washington, D.C., on the annual Washington Youth Tour (WYT). The itinerary for the weeklong tour is strategically planned well in advance, but what can't be planned or predicted is the chemistry created when all the elements that make up the dynamic group of students are combined. It's a formula that makes each year's trip unique and memorable. In 2018, 113 student delegates, 13 chaperones and three tour directors united to make the annual WYT a trip to remember.

Altamaha EMC's 2018 WYT delegates—Adam Morris, Elliot Sammons and Cody Masterman-Smith—joined their talented and ambitious peers to build leadership skills, understand the importance of civic involvement and community service and tour the nation's historic sites to increase their knowledge of the country's rich heritage.



The Altamaha EMC delegates pose for a picture in front of the World War II Memorial. The wreath pictured was later used in a wreathlaying ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in Arlington National Cemetery.

The memories began in Atlanta on June 14, 2018, with the kickoff banquet for delegates and their families before the students departed the next morning for the nation's capital. Through the week, delegates experienced a mix of leadership and team-building exercises, history lessons with visits to some of the country's most treasured museums and monuments and a rare opportunity to

meet one-on-one with members of Georgia's congressional delegation.

Students see history come to life as they learn about the people and places that helped shape our country. Stops in the nation's capital included Mount Vernon, Arlington Memorial Cemetery, the Smithsonian museums, Holocaust

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Memorial Museum, Mount Vernon, Supreme Court, Library of Congress and Kennedy Center. The students also toured the Jefferson, Lincoln, FDR, MLK, World War II, Vietnam and Korean War veterans memorials.

Visits to these iconic sights, as well as up-close encounters with the history they have been taught in the classroom, can have a profound effect on the students' understanding of their country.

In D.C., the Georgia contingent was joined by 1,700 delegates from across the country from different walks of life, different backgrounds and different life experiences, giving them a broader perspective and deeper appreciation of the world at large. The opportunity to mix and mingle with a melting pot of peers always leaves a lasting impression when the delegates return home.

For Cody Masterman-Smith, the most interesting part of the trip was the

people. "There were so many different personalities, but we all seemed to mesh together very well," he says. "I learned about different points of views and I am better for it."

In addition to visiting the historical sights in D.C. and spending time with fascinating peers from all over the United States, delegates also engage with members of Georgia's congressional delegation, including personal visits with U.S. Sens. David Perdue and Johnny Isakson. Adam Morris says, "Meeting our political leaders gave me a new perspective on today's important issues and what my role should be as an American citizen."

Seeing the U.S. Capitol, the House of Representatives and the Senate left a lasting impression on Elliot Sammons. "It was inspirational to me to see the places where the policies are made that govern our lives," he says.

The goal of the WYT is to provide the students—our next generation of leaders—opportunities and experiences that will empower them to make meaningful and lifelong contributions to their communities.



The Marine Corps War Memorial (Iwo Jima statue) is dedicated to all U.S. Marine Corps personnel who died in the defense of the United States since 1775.

Spending a week away, surrounded by new people in a different environment, allows delegates to forget any preconceived limitations on their lives back home. So many times, the WYT provides students a launching pad into leadership roles they never would have thought possible.

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Sidney Spell, Toombs County High School Assistant Principal, was chosen as a chaperone for the 2018 WYT.



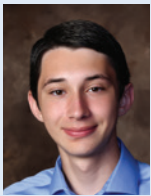
U.S. Rep. Rick Allen spent time talking to the WYT delegates about political issues.

## Meet the 2018 Altamaha EMC Delegates

**A**ltamaha EMC's Washington Youth Tour delegates were carefully selected through a rigorous application process. Any junior or senior who attends a high school in the cooperative's seven-county service territory is eligible to apply. All applicants receive a study packet containing information on the history of rural electrification in America, facts about Altamaha EMC, energy conservation, electrical safety and green power. After a two-week study period, the applicants take a written exam over the study packet material. The 10 students who score the highest on the written exam advance to the final level of the competition, a personal interview. The finalists are given a score on their interview and this is averaged together with the grade from their written test. The three students with the highest average are selected to represent Altamaha EMC on the tour.



**Adam Morris** is a senior at Montgomery County High School. He is the son of Howard and Carolyn Morris. He is a dual-enrollment student at Brewton-Parker College, where he has already earned an associate degree. Adam is a member of Montgomery County High's soccer team and an active 4-H member. After graduation, Adam plans to attend college and pursue a career as a physician's assistant.



**Elliot Sammons** is a senior at Vidalia Heritage Academy. He is the son of Brent and Katy Sammons. Elliot's school activities include literary competition, one-act play and Harvard Model Congress. He participates in many sports including cross country, tennis, archery and golf. Elliot has received early acceptance to University of Georgia, where he plans to pursue a degree as a pharmacist.



**Cody Masterman-Smith** is a senior at Robert Toombs Christian Academy. He is the son of Steve and Caryn Masterman-Smith. Cody is very active in school activities such as FCA, Y-Club, student government association, Beta Club and Literary Team. He participates in many sports, including football, soccer, basketball, wrestling and cross country. Cody is keeping his college options open but has received early acceptance to University of Georgia. He plans to become a lawyer or engineer and use his unique talents to better the community around him.

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Sidney Spell, Toombs County High School Assistant Principal, served as a chaperone for the tour. He says, "This trip was something I'll never forget. The quality of students selected was just amazing. These kids have plans to do good things in their future. It was refreshing to see students with such high character, energy and a passion for life."

The Washington Youth Tour is indeed a trip to remember. It is an opportunity to remember the sacrifices made by American soldiers who fought to secure the freedoms we enjoy today and for delegates to recognize their responsibility to protect all that has been achieved for them and future generations.

Altamaha EMC believes there is no better way to promote stronger communities and a stronger nation than to support our future leaders today.



At the Korean War Veterans Memorial are 19 stainless steel statues dressed in full combat gear to represent a platoon on patrol in Korea.

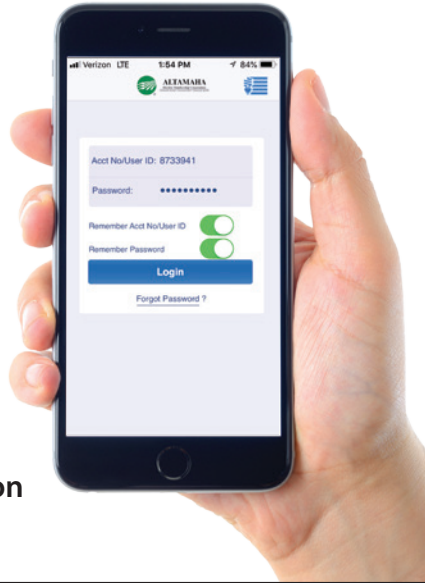


**E**ach year, Altamaha EMC selects three local students to represent our cooperative on the WYT. The dates for the 2019 tour are June 13-20. All high school juniors and seniors interested in the opportunity can obtain information by contacting our Washington Youth Tour Coordinator, Tammye Vaughn. She can be reached at (912) 526-2120 or by email at [tammye.vaughn@altamahaemc.com](mailto:tammye.vaughn@altamahaemc.com)

## Altamaha EMC now has a free mobile app!

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## Space Heaters: Play It Safe

Space heaters can work wonders to warm rooms that your central heating system doesn't keep comfortable. But while manufacturers have worked to build more safety features into this alternative heating source, users still should take precautions to ensure these cozy heaters don't become fire hazards.

Space heaters are designed as a supplemental source of heat, not the main source. So you shouldn't use them constantly, especially in rooms that you don't use much. Check your space heaters for a UL seal, and follow these guidelines for using them safely:

- Keep space heaters at least three feet from drapes and furniture that could catch fire.
- Don't use extension cords with space heaters unless absolutely necessary.
- Inspect the heater's cord periodically for frayed wires or damaged insulation. Don't use a space heater with a damaged cord.



- Check for a secure plug/outlet fit. If the plug gets hot, the outlet may need to be replaced by a qualified electrician. This could be the sign of a home wiring issue.
- Place your heater on a flat, level surface. Don't place heaters on furniture, as they may fall and break or even start a fire.
- Unless the heater is designed for use outdoors or in bathrooms, don't use it in wet areas.

## Reminder— Scholarship Deadline Approaching



January 31, 2019, is the deadline to submit applications for the \$1,000 Walter Harrison Scholarship. For more information, visit our website at [www.altamahaemc.com](http://www.altamahaemc.com) or call Tammye Vaughn at (912) 526-2120.

## Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Is your hot-water tank warm to the touch? Consider insulating it to save 7 percent to 16 percent annually on water heating costs. Follow the manufacturer's recommendations.

—Source: *energy.gov*

