



# Plugged in to Altamaha EMC

January 2020

LYONS, GA

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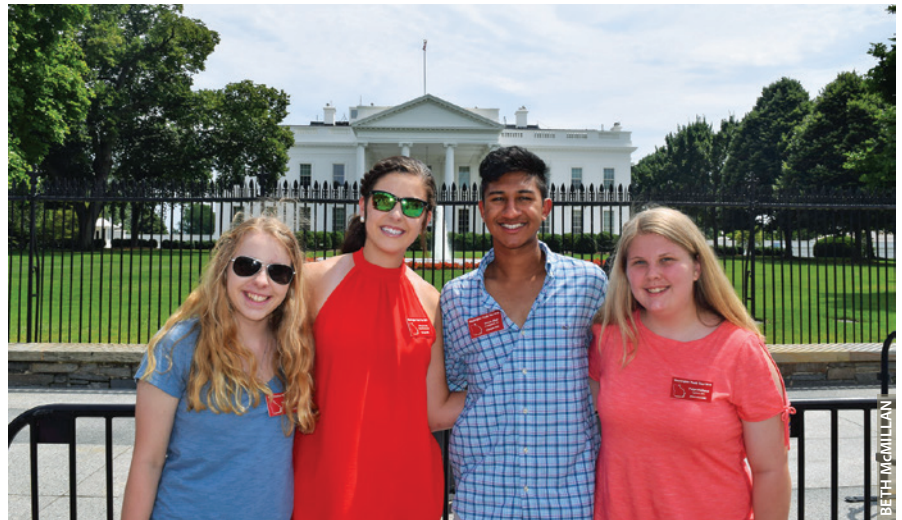
## The Washington Youth Tour *Planning for the Future*

Every summer, Altamaha EMC offers deserving local students a life-changing opportunity to participate in the Washington Youth Tour (WYT), a weeklong leadership trip to Washington, D.C. The WYT challenges an exemplary group of students selected by EMCs across the state to learn from our nation's history while planning for their future.

During the tour, life lessons and plenty of fun knit together seamlessly for the experience of a lifetime. The tour is designed to teach students about U.S. history, the role of democracy, the importance of community and public service and the need for civic leadership.

The 2019 tour began with a kickoff banquet in Atlanta for the 115 delegates and their families. The students took a flight the next morning to our nation's capital, where they joined more than 1,700 students from across the country.

Tour stops in Washington, D.C., included Mount Vernon, the National



Delegates never leave Washington, D.C., without stopping for a picture outside the White House.

Archives, the Smithsonian Institution museums, the National Cathedral, the U.S. Capitol, the Holocaust Memorial Museum, the Library of Congress and Arlington National Cemetery. The group also visited the MLK, FDR, Jefferson and World War II memorials. Delegates had the opportunity to meet with Georgia legislators to discuss issues of importance.

Briley Braddy enjoyed talking with the legislative delegation. "The day on Capitol Hill was not only intriguing but encouraging," she says. "Hearing the representatives explain how their colleagues of polarized views work together was hopeful. The news is constantly highlighting negativity when unifying accomplishments are actually

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KATHRYN CLAXTON

The 115 Georgia delegates pose for a picture in front of the U.S. Capitol.

## The Washington Youth Tour, *Continued from page 22A*

happening in D.C. I truly appreciated how the representatives shined light on a government that is portrayed as dark, secretive chaos.”

Falyn Holland says, “Watching the government work really gave me the desire to help and serve in my community, both now and in the future.”

Hunter Brotman credits the WYT with improving her skills to interact with people. She says, “This trip forced me to meet and bond with people I’ve never met. Communicating with people is a vital aspect in the business world. The skills I learned during the WYT will help me build a career as a successful woman in the business world.”

The Washington Youth Tour helped solidify Arham Shah’s career choice to enter the political arena. He says, “The opportunities afforded me during this trip reinforced my desire to make a difference in my community, my state and my country by being a politician. I now know that I am headed in the right direction.”



KATHRYN CLAXTON

Arham Shah spent some time during the tour talking with U.S. Sen. David Perdue (R-Ga.).



KATHRYN CLAXTON

Youth Tour delegates pause at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial to honor the 58,000 servicemen and women who gave their lives in the Vietnam War.





The Washington National Cathedral makes a beautiful backdrop for this picture of the Altamaha EMC delegates.



The Tomb of the Unknown Soldier at Arlington National Cemetery is a monument dedicated to deceased U.S. service members whose remains have not been identified. Delegates always credit this as a favorite stop during the WYT.

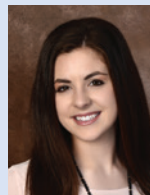
Altamaha EMC sponsors delegates on the WYT each year to empower local high school students to reach their full potential. Through the years, it has proven to be a wise investment that positively influences the future of these young people.



Each year, Altamaha EMC selects local students to represent our cooperative on the WYT. The dates of the 2020 tour are June 18-25. All high school juniors and seniors interested in the opportunity can obtain information by contacting our WYT Coordinator, Tammye Vaughn. She can be reached at (912) 526-2120 or by email at [tammye.vaughn@altamahaemc.com](mailto:tammye.vaughn@altamahaemc.com)

## Meet the 2019 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 session. The finalists are given a score on their interview and this score 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.



**Briley Braddy** is a senior at Vidalia Heritage Academy and the daughter of Brandon and Donna Jean Braddy. Briley is a member of the First Baptist Church of Mount Vernon. She is currently interning for state Sen. Blake Tillery. Her extracurricular activities include cheerleading, track and field, softball, literary, Harvard Model Congress and National Honor Society. She is also involved in several community activities including the Meadows Regional Medical Center Youth Advisory Board, Peoples Bank Student Leadership Board and Toombs-Montgomery Youth Leadership. She has received early acceptance to the University of Georgia and plans to attend in the fall.



**Hunter Brotman** is a senior at Robert Toombs Christian Academy and the daughter of Rand Brotman and Talia Taylor. Hunter is very involved in school activities such as LEO Club, Beta Club, Y-Club and the Literary Team. She was elected President of the student government association. She has played the flute in band for four years and was selected as captain her senior year. Hunter is keeping her college options open, but plans on attending college in Florida. Her plans are to receive a master's degree in human resources and/or obtain a realtor's license.



**Falynd Holland** is a senior at Toombs County High School and a dual-enrollment student at Southeastern Technical College. She is the daughter of Jonathan and Teresa Holland. Her school activities include One-Act Play, Student Council, softball, FCCLA, FBLA and BETA Club. She participated in the 2019 Georgia Youth Assembly. Falynd is on the Meadows Regional Medical Center Youth Advisory Board and a member of Toombs-Montgomery Youth Leadership. After high school, she plans to attend college and pursue a career as a dentist.



**Arham Shah** is a senior at Swainsboro High School. He is the son of Neil and Hema Shah. Arham is very active in many organizations and extracurriculars such as 4-H, tennis, Beta Club, FBLA, golf, band and many more. He serves as the Georgia 4-H State President. He plans to attend the University of Georgia or the University of Alabama and pursue a degree in political science.

## Altamaha EMC Now Has a Free Mobile App!

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## How Warm Should I Keep My Home?

**Y**our family could save as much as 10 percent a year on heating and air conditioning simply by turning your thermostats back by 7 to 10 degrees.

The U.S. Department of Energy says lowering the heat in the winter for eight hours a day will do the trick. Same goes for raising the temperature a few degrees for eight hours on summer days.

If you turn the heat down a bit before bedtime, for example, you could see those savings. Then, turn it back up when you get up and then back down again just as everyone leaves the house for school and work in the morning.



Or invest in a programmable thermostat, which will automatically turn the heat up and down at the times you set. Then, you won't have to worry about forgetting to change the temperature several times a day.

## Reminder— Scholarship Deadline Approaching



January 31, 2020, 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

Let the sunshine in! For additional warmth, open drapes over windows that receive sunlight during the day. Close them at night, which can reduce heat loss from a warm room up to 10 percent.

—Source: [energy.gov](http://energy.gov)

