



# Plugged in to Altamaha EMC

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LYONS, GA

*The Official Newsletter of Altamaha Electric Membership Corporation*

**Serving: Toombs, Montgomery, Emanuel, Treutlen, Laurens, Johnson and Tattnall**

## The Washington Youth Tour— ★ Investing in America's Future

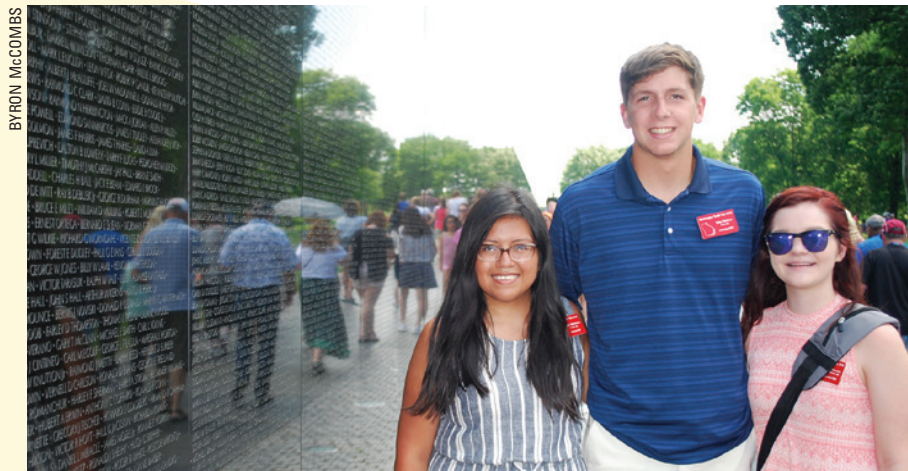
"Send youngsters to the nation's capital where they can actually see what the flag stands for and represents," said U.S. Senator Lyndon Johnson at the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association annual meeting in Chicago in 1957. Electric cooperatives across the country accepted that challenge and have been sending students to Washington, D.C., ever since.



The Washington Youth Tour (WYT) has given 3,000 students in Georgia and more than 50,000 students nationwide the opportunity to take part in this once-in-a-lifetime experience. In fact, 1,700 exceptional students from all over the United States descended upon the nation's capital in June 2016 to take part in the annual WYT. Georgia's electric cooperatives sent 114 delegates on the weeklong, all-expenses-paid trip.

The Washington Youth Tour is Georgia's oldest leadership program for teens. In 1965, the inaugural year of Georgia's involvement in the WYT, a dozen students participated in the trip. Since then, more than 3,000 teens have been sponsored by EMCs in Georgia and given the

*Continued on page 22B*



The Vietnam Veterans Memorial is always a somber, yet memorable, stop during the WYT.



The delegates were all smiles as they posed for a picture at the Washington Monument, a memorial to commemorate George Washington, once commander-in-chief of the Continental Army and the first American president.

BYRON McCOMBS

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# The Washington Youth Tour, ★

*Continued from page 22A*

opportunity to experience this prestigious leadership event. Each year the students return from the trip to share stories of the trip's impact on their life.

Altamaha EMC's 2016 delegates—Jacey Thomas, Toby Upshaw and Maria Velasquez—took advantage of every minute as they navigated through the seven-day adventure. Unlike a school or church youth group trip, where most of the young people are acquainted with one another, the WYT knits together 114 delegates who have never met.

"I was so amazed at everything about this trip," Upshaw says. "Meeting and spending time with the other delegates was a very important part of this trip. We all made incredible bonds and friendships."

The WYT is designed to expose delegates to leadership lessons they can use throughout their lives. "This trip taught me the importance of being open to new ideas and truly listening to what other people have to say," says Thomas. "The tour helped me realize just how significant one person can be in the history of a

KATHRYN CLAXTON



The Franklin Delano Roosevelt Memorial pays tribute to the 32nd president of the United States. FDR signed an executive order in 1935 creating the Rural Electrification Act, which led to the formation of electric membership cooperatives, like Altamaha EMC.

nation. I have a newfound respect for others and for our country."

The one word Velasquez used to describe the trip was "indescribable." She says, "The experiences, laughs and tears I shared among new, lifelong friends can't be described in words. I always knew I wanted to make a positive change in my community, but through this tour I realized that my aspirations can go way beyond the borders of my small town."

Our country has experienced many changes since 1957 when Johnson's remarks formed the foundation for the WYT. As a result, understanding what the flag stands for and represents is more important than ever. Altamaha EMC is proud to participate in a trip that provides this opportunity to our future leaders.

DANIEL PECK STUDIOS



Georgia's youth delegates had the chance to gain, and offer, firsthand insights into today's most important issues through face-to-face visits with their congressional delegations on Capitol Hill. U.S. Rep. Rick Allen (R-Ga.) was gracious to spend time talking to the group about a variety of political issues.

BYRON MCCOMBS



The EMCs of Georgia were represented by 114 outstanding student delegates.

## Meet the 2016 Altamaha EMC Delegates

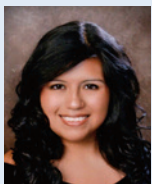
**A**ltamaha EMC's delegates were carefully selected through a rigorous application process. Any junior or senior who attends a high school in Altamaha EMC's seven-county service territory is eligible to apply for the Washington Youth Tour. All applicants receive a study packet containing information 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 are given 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 score on their interview 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.



**Jacey Thomas** is a senior at Montgomery County High School and has been accepted to the University of Georgia where she will begin in the fall. The daughter of Julie Adams and Jamie Thomas, Jacey participates in FFA, 4-H, Beta Club and Student Council. She is a varsity cheerleader, an honor roll with excellence student and enjoys competing in pageants. Jacey is a member of Tabernacle Baptist Church. Along with attending college, her plans include becoming a doctor.



**Toby Upshaw** is a senior at Robert Toombs Christian Academy. The son of James and Leigh Upshaw, Toby plays football and basketball and is a member of the track team. He participates in Y-club, FCA, one-act play and literary competition. Toby attends Connection Church. After high school, Toby plans to pursue a college degree in business.



**Maria Velasquez** graduated in 2016 from Toombs County High School and is now a freshman at Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College. Maria is the daughter of Maria Velasquez and Sergio Maldonado. Maria's high school activities included FBLA, TSA, Spanish Club and Math Club. She is a member of Cobb Creek Baptist Church.



BYRON MCCOMBS

A must during every visit to Washington, D.C., is a picture in front of The White House.

### ★ Washington Youth Tour 2017 tentative itinerary

**June 8:** Kickoff banquet, Atlanta

**June 9:** Team-building activities; flight to Washington, D.C.

**Dates TBD for the following activities:**

- Tour and lunch at Mount Vernon; dinner at Union Station; evening guided tour of memorials; photo op at White House
- Guided tour of Jefferson, Lincoln, Korean War and Vietnam Veterans memorials; Arlington National Cemetery guided tour; dinner performance of "Beauty and the Beast" at Toby's Dinner Theatre in Columbia, Md.
- All States assembly; tour Smithsonian museums; cruise on Potomac River
- Tour Supreme Court, U.S. Capitol and Washington National Cathedral; Sunset Parade at U.S. Marine Corps War Memorial (Iwo Jima statue)
- Meet with Georgia's congressional delegation; tour News-eum and Library of Congress; All States farewell event

**June 15:** Return flight to Atlanta

★ Each year, Altamaha EMC selects three local students to represent our area on the Washington Youth Tour. The dates for the 2017 tour are June 8-15. All high school juniors and seniors who are interested in this opportunity can obtain information by contacting our Washington Youth Tour Coordinator, Tammye Vaughn. She can be reached by phone at 912-526-2120 or by email at [tammye.vaughn@altamahaemc.com](mailto:tammye.vaughn@altamahaemc.com).

Perhaps you know of an exceptional student who would be a great candidate for the program. If you do, please share this article with them.



# Truck for Sale: Invitation to Bid

**A**ltamaha EMC is accepting sealed bids for the 2007 Chevrolet half-ton pickup shown at right. The truck has 108,500 miles. Bids will be accepted until 5 p.m. Tuesday, January 31, 2017. **Only Altamaha EMC members are allowed to submit a bid. Minimum bid is \$2,500.00.**



The truck is available for your inspection at our office on Hwy. 280 in Lyons. Viewing hours are Tuesday–Friday, 8 a.m.–5:30 p.m. The truck will be sold on an as-is basis.

All bids must include name, address and telephone number. Bids can be dropped off at our Lyons office or mailed to P.O. Box 346, Lyons, GA 30436 (Attn: Joe Waters).

For more information, contact Joe Waters at (912) 526-2168 or [joe.waters@altamahaemc.com](mailto:joe.waters@altamahaemc.com)

## Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month



According to the Consumer Electronics Association, the average household owns 24 consumer electronics products, which are responsible for 12 percent of household electricity use. ENERGY STAR-certified audio/video equipment is up to 50 percent more efficient than conventional models.



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



## Reminder — Scholarship Deadline Approaching

January 31, 2017 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.



## Member RECIPES



### Crockpot Apple Crisp

- One can (21-ounce) apple pie filling (optional: cherry or blueberry pie filling)
- One package (18-ounce) cinnamon crumb coffee cake mix (optional: yellow or white cake mix)
- ½ stick melted butter
- ¼ cup chopped nuts

Place pie filling in crockpot. In a mixing bowl, mix butter and cake mix. Mixture will be crumbly. Add cake mixture to crockpot over pie filling. Top with nuts. To have a crunchier topping and to remove moisture from crockpot, place 5 or 6 folded paper towels over rim of slow cooker bowl and secure with lid. Cook on low for 3 hours. Serve warm.

—From the kitchen  
of Anita Shepherd