











The National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) organizes the secondlargest grassroots lobbying event in the nation each April in Washington, D.C., joining representatives from electrical cooperatives from 48 states together to convene on Capitol Hill. Each group visits their states representatives to inform them about the issues rural electrical cooperatives face and how they can help make a difference on their behalf.

Our student scholarship winners accompany us on our visits to these offices to see how the lobbying process works. Not only do they get the opportunity to observe the legislation procedure in real time, but they also have the chance to see our nation's Capital and all it has to offer.

Some of the activities we have done in the past include: a tour of U.S. Capitol, a night tour of D.C. which includes the major monuments like the White House, the Lincoln Memorial, the Washington Memorial, the Vietnam War Memorial, the Korean War Memorial, the WWII Memorial, Arlington National Cemetery, among others. We've also visited several museums including the Museum of Natural History, the Museum of American History, the Museum of the American Indian, the United State Botanic Garden Conservatory, the National Archives (where the Declaration of Independence and Magna Carta are housed), the Museum of Air and Space, the Holocaust Museum, the Library of Congress, etc. We also try to attend a Washington Nationals Major League Baseball game while we're in town!

In the 5 short days we spend in D.C., we do a LOT of walking, so be sure to bring your walking shoes! In addition, we do expect you to dress professionally for our meetings with our elected officials and their staff, however, casual clothing is necessary for site-seeing outings as well. Remember that D.C. in April can be quite warm and muggy, unlike NY!

The other three NY Cooperatives send student delegates as well, and out of those students, one is chosen after the trip to D.C., to represent our state the following year at the NRECA Power Xchange meeting in Nashville, TN.

This opportunity is a once-in-a-lifetime chance to experience our nation's capital in a way many never get to.