



Media Contact:
Amanda Anderson
Strategic Communications Officer
T: (970) 903-7610
E: aanderson@lpea.coop

LPEA Opens Applications for Youth Tour and Scholarships: Two Opportunities to Empower Future Leaders

LPEA invests in youth leadership and career development experiences

Durango, Colo. — (December 1, 2025) — La Plata Electric Association (LPEA) is offering two exciting opportunities for local students this winter: applications are now open for the 2026 Electric Cooperative Youth Tour to Washington, D.C., and college and vocational scholarship applications will open on December 1. Both programs reflect LPEA's commitment to investing in youth leadership and supporting the region's future workforce.

Applications Now Open for 2026 Youth Tour to Washington, D.C.

LPEA invites **local high school juniors** to apply for the 2026 Electric Cooperative Youth Tour, taking place **June 15–21, 2026**.

This all-expenses-paid leadership experience brings together high school students from across the nation for a week of education, connection, and adventure. Participants engage with student leaders, meet elected officials, and gain an inside look at how government and electric cooperatives work together to power communities.

Applications for LPEA's Youth Tour are open now at lpea.coop/lpea-youth-tour. Four students will be selected to represent LPEA - one each from Durango, Bayfield, Pagosa Springs, and Ignacio. Applicants must live and attend school in LPEA's service territory, which includes La Plata and Archuleta counties.

Students interested in applying should submit their applications by **January 2, 2026**. A selection committee will review all submissions, and winners will be notified in February. Questions can be directed to youthtour@lpea.coop or **970-247-5786**.

College and Vocational Scholarship Applications Open December 1

Beginning **December 1**, LPEA will also open applications for college and vocational scholarships, available to students planning to attend universities, community colleges, or lineworker programs. Scholarship opportunities include \$28,000 for students pursuing four-year degrees, \$10,000 for those attending two-year vocational or technical programs, and \$12,000 for students enrolling in accredited electrical lineworker training. Details and application links will be available at lpea.coop/scholarships. The application deadline for all scholarships is **March 1, 2026**.

Each year, LPEA supports students across Archuleta and La Plata counties through scholarships, energy education, and hands-on learning opportunities. This commitment reflects LPEA's mission to power a strong, resilient future and support the next generation of community leaders.

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About LPEA

LPEA is a member-owned, not-for-profit, electric distribution cooperative serving La Plata and Archuleta counties, with segments of Hinsdale, Mineral, and San Juan counties. LPEA is the fifth largest cooperative of 22 in Colorado, and aims to provide safe, reliable electricity at the lowest reasonable cost to its approximately 37,300 members. For additional information, contact LPEA at (970) 247-5786 or visit lpea.coop.