

## **LOCAL YOUNG LEADERS LEARN ABOUT GOVERNMENT DURING CO-OP EVENT IN NASHVILLE**

NASHVILLE – Munford High School students Sarah Montroy and Tanner Casey were in Nashville March 12-14 for the Tennessee Electric Cooperative Association’s annual Youth Leadership Summit. The juniors were chosen and sponsored by Southwest Tennessee Electric Membership Corporation. Delegates to the annual event receive a hands-on look at state government, learn networking and leadership skills and develop a better understanding of their local electric cooperatives.

While in Nashville, the students visited the State Capitol Building where they were welcomed to Nashville by members of the Tennessee General Assembly. Alan Whittington, assistant chief clerk of the Senate, explained the process required to pass legislation, and students debated and voted on a mock bill. After visiting the Senate Chambers, students walked over to the new Cordell Hull State office building where, TN District 81 State Representative Debra Moody, took time out of her busy schedule to meet with Southwest delegates.

In addition to lawmakers, students also heard from Tennessee leaders like Miss. Tennessee 2018 Caty Davis; Adam Hammond, anchor for Nashville’s NewsChannel5; and Trooper Jeffrey Buchanan with the Tennessee Executive Protection Detail.

“I can honestly say that YLS was an unforgettable experience that allowed me to meet so many amazing people, provided me with once in a lifetime opportunities, and taught me essential life skills that I will never forget” says Sarah Montroy, a junior from Munford High School attending the Youth Leadership Summit.

Delegates to the Youth Leadership Summit are encouraged to be leaders in their hometowns and use their talents to improve rural Tennessee. “Local electric co-ops, school officials and guidance counselors chose these deserving students to attend the summit based on their interests in government and strong leadership abilities,” says Todd Blocker, Tennessee Electric Cooperative Association vice president of member relations and director of the Youth Leadership Summit. “They will be the next generation of leaders in rural Tennessee, and we want to prepare them for the challenges and opportunities they will face.”

“These students will soon be our community leaders — and electric cooperative member-owners,” says Kevin Murphy, Southwest TN EMC President. “We want them to share our passion for rural West Tennessee, so it is an honor for Southwest TN EMC help prepare them for the opportunities that are ahead. The future of our rural communities depends on a new generation of strong leaders like these.”

Southwest Tennessee Electric Membership Corporation is a consumer-owned, nonprofit electric distribution cooperative, providing electric service to parts of Chester, Crockett, Fayette, Hardeman, Haywood, Henderson, Lauderdale, McNairy, Madison, Shelby and Tipton Counties. Of the twenty-three electric cooperatives in Tennessee, Southwest TN EMC, with nearly 50,000 consumers and approximately 4,000 miles of line is the largest electric cooperative in West Tennessee.

The Tennessee Electric Cooperative Association provides legislative and communication support for Tennessee’s 23 electric cooperatives and publishes The Tennessee Magazine, the state’s most widely circulated periodical. Visit [tnelectric.org](http://tnelectric.org) or [tnmagazine.org](http://tnmagazine.org) to learn more.

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### **FOR MORE INFORMATION**

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