

Contact: Tim Engleson  
Lincoln Electric Cooperative Inc.  
Phone 406-889-3301  
Email tim@lincolnelectric.coop

P.O. Box 628  
Eureka, MT 59917  
Phone 406-889-3301  
Fax 406-889-3874

Lincoln Electric  
Cooperative, Inc.

# Press Release

## Write an Essay – Win a trip to Washington D.C.

**Eureka, MT September 8, 2006** An all-expense-paid tour of Washington D.C. awaits some creative student in Lincoln Electric Cooperative's service area, if they enter and win an essay contest sponsored by Lincoln Electric Co-op and the Montana Electric Cooperatives' Association (MECA). The contest and trip are part of the national "Youth to Washington Tour" hosted each year by the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA).

Entry for the contest is a two-page essay. This year's topic is: "Our region has just experienced a devastating storm, knocking out power and displacing residents. Community officials and leaders have granted you authority to make key decisions to facilitate restoration. However, due to the extensive damage you will have access to only two hours of electricity per day for the next seven days. Describe how you would utilize the power most effectively to help your community maximize your recovery efforts." Lincoln Electric will select an essay winner to represent the co-op in the "Youth to Washington Tour". MECA will also choose a Statewide Tour winner from the field of essays turned into participating electric cooperatives. Last year, 28 Montana students participated in the Tour. The winning students will spend seven days in Washington D.C. June 9-15, 2007, touring the Smithsonian, the Capitol, Mount Vernon, Ford's Theater, the U.S. Senate and the U.S. House of Representatives, plus all the major memorials and monuments.

Students also take an active role in learning about our nation's government by meeting one-on-one with Montana's Congressional delegation. On the final day students participate in a Youth Day rally, with over 1400 students from around the country. All students whose parents or guardian is served by Lincoln Electric are eligible for the co-op's contest, but sons and daughters of co-op employees and

For Release September 8, 2006

*more*

directors are not eligible for the statewide contest. Complete rules are available from Lincoln Electric, or your school.

Each summer, the "Youth to Washington Tour" attracts more than 1400 students from 39 states to Washington D.C. In 2006, twenty-eight Montana high school students were selected to tour the capital, including Melanie Finch of Rexford.

According to Lincoln Electric Co-op manager Mike Henry, "The Youth to Washington Tour offers many benefits for Montana's young people. One, it's an excellent education of our country's democratic process. Two, the students learn about the cooperative way of doing business and what cooperatives stand for. And three, all of these teenagers form friendships that last a lifetime", notes Henry.

For more information contact Tim Engleson at Lincoln Electric Cooperative.

-end-