



Youth Tour 2023 Sparks Lifelong Inspiration and Civic Engagement

“The 2023 Youth Tour was an unforgettable week that presented valuable information I can use for the rest of my life. I was able to meet several North Carolina congressmen and gain insight into how our nation's capital functions. I never realized how important it is for youth to be connected with our government; it was inspiring,” said Mackenzie Morrow, JOEMC Youth Tour delegate.

Around 1,800 high school students convened in Washington, D.C. from June 18-23 as representatives of the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour. Among them were 43 students from North Carolina, including 4 local delegates sponsored by JOEMC: Xavier Drinkwine, Alyssa Hibbert, Mackenzie Morrow, and Lillian Tallman. Throughout the week-long event, the students engaged in leadership training, held discussions with elected officials, established connections with peers from around the nation, gained insights into electric cooperatives, and explored the historical monuments and museums of Washington, D.C.

“Getting to witness our Youth Tourists exploring D.C. with confidence and curiosity was great to see,” said Linda Mathiasen,

JOEMC Director of Graphic Services and 2023 Youth Tour Advisor. “The Youth Tour emphasizes the importance of civic engagement and the fact that politics touch every aspect of life. We hope the experiences and skills delegates gained during the trip will benefit them on their journey to becoming our next great leaders.”

During the seven-day tour, the students deepened their understanding of U.S. history through visits to iconic landmarks such as the Washington Monument and Lincoln Memorial, as well as several Smithsonian museums. They also paid tribute to fallen soldiers at Arlington National Cemetery, the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall, and the Korean War Veterans Memorial. The students had the opportunity to pose policy-related

questions to members of the North Carolina congressional delegation during a meeting on Capitol Hill, where valuable advice was shared.

For the past 58 years, America's electric cooperatives have united students from all corners of the country, broadening their horizons and expanding their knowledge. This program has seen the participation of nearly 50,000 students nationwide, with JOEMC alone having sent over 130 students throughout the years. To learn more about the program, visit the Community Tab on joemc.com.

See highlights from the North Carolina Youth Tour on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram. #NCYouthTour



INNOVATIONS

Empowering Members with Real-Time Energy Insights

New Technology

Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI)

Opportunity

Before implementing AMI, Jones-Onslow EMC members had traditional electromechanical meters at their homes. These meters relied on mechanical dials to measure electricity consumption, requiring manual reading by meter readers. This outdated system led to potential human errors, delays in meter readings, and limited access to real-time consumption data, highlighting the need for improved metering technology.

Goal

The primary goal of JOEMC when implementing AMI was to enhance customer service and improve operational efficiency. By leveraging this technology, JOEMC aimed to provide accurate and timely meter readings, enable remote service connections and disconnections, and reduce the need for manual meter reading visits. The



ultimate objective was to empower JOEMC members with real-time energy information, increased control over their energy usage, and a seamless experience with their utility provider.

Solution

With the integration of AMI, JOEMC members can now view their daily energy usage through the member portal. This feature allows them to stay informed and monitor their consumption, helping to prevent any surprises on their bills. Additionally, JOEMC utilizes the capabilities of Advanced Metering to provide energy consumption calculators, empowering members to make informed decisions and adopt conservation measures to save energy and reduce costs. Learn more about AMI at <https://joemc.com/member-services/advanced-metering-infrastructure/> and to utilize our energy calculators, visit, <https://joemc.com/energywise/>.

Ignite the joy of learning with Bright Ideas EDUCATION GRANTS

Calling all K-12 teachers! As the back-to-school season approaches, we wanted to remind you that Bright Ideas Grants are open for applicants. Are you bursting with a groundbreaking idea for a hands-on classroom project that will inspire and captivate your students? Look no further - apply for a

Bright Ideas grant through Jones-Onslow EMC and bring your vision to life!

To add a spark of excitement, we have a special opportunity for early bird applicants. Submit your application before the early bird deadline of August 15, and you will automatically be entered for

a chance to win one of five \$100 gift cards. Not only will you increase your chances of receiving funding, but you might also walk away with a little extra reward!

Remember, the final application deadline is September 15, but don't delay—applying early might pay off in more

ways than one! Visit **NCBrightIdeas.com** to kick-start your application today. If you have questions, contact Krystal Phillips, JOEMC Communications and Community Relations Manager, at **kphillips@joemc.com**. Together, let's illuminate the path to innovative education!



Streamline Your Bill Payments with AutoDraft: Convenience and Safety for Jones-Onslow EMC Members

We know life can be busy, so we wanted to remind you about the convenience and safety of AutoDraft, our automatic bill payment service designed to simplify your payment experience. As a valued member of JOEMC, we understand the importance of making your electric bill payments as hassle-free as possible, and AutoDraft is here to help.

AutoDraft is a trusted and reliable payment option that allows you to set up automatic payments for your monthly electricity bills. By enrolling in AutoDraft, you can enjoy the following benefits:

- **Convenience:** Say goodbye to the stress of remembering due dates and writing monthly checks. AutoDraft will seamlessly deduct your payments from your designated account on the specified due date; no more rushing to meet payment deadlines. It's a worry-free process that saves you time and effort.
- **Timeliness:** Rest assured that your payments will be made on time, every time. AutoDraft ensures that your bills are paid promptly, helping you avoid late fees and penalties.

By setting up AutoDraft, you can have peace of mind knowing that your payments are taken care of without any delays.

- **Security:** We prioritize the security of your payment information. AutoDraft employs robust security measures, including industry-leading encryption standards, to protect your personal and financial details. You can trust that your information is safe and secure throughout the payment process.

To enroll in AutoDraft or update your existing AutoDraft preferences, visit our website at <https://billing.joemc.com/joemc/login.jsp>. Once in your member portal, you can set up AutoDraft and manage your payment preferences. You can choose the payment account that works best for you, whether a checking account, debit card, or credit card.

We want to make your billing experience as smooth as possible, and AutoDraft is designed to do just that. It's a convenient and secure payment option that ensures your bills are paid on time, saving you the hassle of manual payments and providing you with peace of mind.



SWEET POTATO HUSHPUPPIES

A southern standby with a twist!

Servings: 2 dozen hushpuppies
Source: carolinacountry.com

INGREDIENTS

- 1¼ cup hushpuppy mix
- ½ cup club soda
- ½ cup cooked, mashed sweet potato
- ½ teaspoon cinnamon
- 2 teaspoons sugar
- Pinch of salt
- Peanut oil for frying

DIRECTIONS

1. Combine all the ingredients except oil and mix well. Let sit 15 minutes.
2. Heat oil to 350 degrees.
3. Using a teaspoon, drop hushpuppy batter into the oil. Fry about 3–4 minutes until golden brown. Remove with slotted spoon and drain on paper towels.



Engaging with Elected Officials

Over the past several months, JOEMC has been involved with the legislative process, engaging with our elected officials on both the state and federal levels. Even though I say "over the last several months," this is an ongoing process as we continually engage with our representatives through meetings and one-on-one discussions throughout the year.



Jeffery T. Clark, CEO

Building close, working relationships with our elected officials is crucial to our continued mission to provide safe, reliable, and affordable power to you, our members. Laws and regulations passed in Raleigh and Washington can significantly impact the co-op's cost of doing business and the cost of providing electricity to your home or business.

Our message to representatives is simple: we must all work together to protect safe, reliable, affordable electric service. Communicating this message allows us to provide input and feedback on proposed legislation. This input allows us to help our legislators make informed decisions and craft laws that address your needs and concerns.

So, what exactly are the messages we're discussing this year? On the state level, electric co-ops have centered our talks around increased penalties for attacks on critical infrastructure, continued

economic development across North Carolina, protecting our state's energy portfolio, and funding to continue innovation in the electric utility industry. We also emphasized the continued need to expand access to rural broadband funding and support our local telecommunications cooperatives in their mission to expand broadband into our communities.

On the federal level, the focus of discussions has primarily been on the significant impact that our representatives' decisions and potential legislation can have on the reliability of the electric service we provide to our members. While we fully support the transition to net-zero carbon emissions, an essential goal for our country, we must also be mindful of the pace at which we are required to achieve it. There is a growing disconnect between the mandated retirement of generation resources and the availability and reliability of the resources that are required to be added to the

grid. As our dependence on electricity continues to increase in our economy, we must consider the capacity and uptime of the resources we rely on to power our economy full-time. This topic encompasses solar and other renewable resources and the ability to quickly and cost-effectively construct constant and reliable generation resources like small modular nuclear and natural gas.

Thank you to our U.S. Senators Thom Tillis and Ted Budd, U.S. House of Representative Dr. Greg Murphy, N.C. State Senators Mike Lazzara and Brent Jackson and N.C. State House Representatives George Cleveland, Phil Shepard, Jimmy Dixon, Chris Humphrey, and Carson Smith, as well as each of their staff, for taking the time to hear our thoughts on issues important to our members. We appreciate their work to help protect the service we provide to you, our members, and their constituents.

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Did you know ceiling fans can make a room feel 4 degrees cooler? To save energy through ceiling fan use, remember to raise your thermostat a few degrees while fans are turned on. Ceiling fans can help improve comfort year-round. In the summer, operate ceiling fans in a counterclockwise direction. Reverse the direction to clockwise during winter months and set fans on a low speed so warm air can circulate from the ceiling to the lower levels of the room.

Remember, ceiling fans cool people, not spaces. Be sure to turn them off when you leave the room.

Source: Dept. of Energy



we will be
Closed
ON LABOR
Day
SEPTEMBER 4th

