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**WESTERN COOPERATIVE ELECTRIC**

# NEWS

## Western Sponsors Youth on Washington, D.C., Youth Tour

**EMILY RUDER**, Plainville, and **ALEX LANTIS**, Ellis, were among the nearly 1,500 high school students from across the country who participated in the electric cooperatives' Government in Action Youth Tour held June 10-17, 2010, in Washington, D.C.

Ruder and Lantis were selected as the winners in the Western Cooperative Youth Contest held in February.

The Youth Tour has been a joint effort of electric cooperatives, such as Western, their statewide cooperative associations, and the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association for 50 years.

Each year in June, an action filled week provides high school students opportunities to learn first-hand what it is like to be involved in politics, community service and today's pressing issues.

The students began their trip touring the Kansas State Capitol followed by visits to the Wolf Creek Nuclear Power Plant and the Lyon-Coffey Electric Cooperative before flying to Washington, D.C. The group learned about the U.S. government through visits with Congressman Jerry Moran and Congresswoman Lynn Jenkins, meetings with youth from other states and tours of museums, Capitol Hill, Arlington National Cemetery and the White House.

"This trip was a once-in-a-lifetime experience that I will never forget," Ruder said. "The historical sites and memorials that we stopped at will forever have a positive impact on my life."

In addition to taking in the sights and sounds of the nation's capital, all the state groups convened for National Youth Day to learn from public figures and other inspirational speakers.

"This trip was absolutely amazing," Lantis said. "Some of my favorite places were the war memorials, and the museums. I will



**Emily Ruder and Alex Lantis pose in front of the Capitol in Washington, D.C.**

never forget this trip and the people I met."

Since 1960, Kansas' electric cooperatives have sponsored the trips of thousands of high school juniors and seniors to visit U.S. congressional members, energy and grassroots government education sessions and sightseeing in Washington, D.C.

For more information about this annual youth contest, contact Western Cooperative Electric at 800-456-6720 or 785-743-5561 or visit our website [www.westerncoop.com](http://www.westerncoop.com).



**The tour included visits to historical monuments, memorials and museums. The delegation also had the opportunity to tour the capitol.**

