

# 2026 ESSAY ENTRY FORM

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_  
 Parent's Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_ Sophomore/Junior \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_ City, State, Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_  
 Telephone \_\_\_\_\_ School \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

## Rules:

### Students Eligible:

The contest is open to ALL high school sophomores and juniors attending a high school located within the Farmers' Electric Cooperative service area, which includes the counties of: Caldwell, Carroll, Chariton, Clinton, Daviess, Dekalb, Livingston, Linn or Ray.

**\*STUDENTS DO NOT HAVE TO BE A MEMBER OF FARMERS' ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE TO ENTER AN ESSAY.**

### Essay Details:

- Submit a typed essay, 400-600 words in length on the topic listed.
- Use ONLY the main subject title on your essay.
- Please **DO NOT** include your name on the essay.

### Submission:

- Essays must be in the Cooperative office or postmarked no later than 4:30 p.m. Friday, January 16, 2026.
- All submissions must be accompanied by this entry form.
- Essays may be dropped off or mailed to:  
 Farmers' Electric Cooperative  
 Attn: Keara Hopper  
 201 W. Business 36  
 Chillicothe, MO 64601
- Essays may also be emailed to: [keara@fec-co.com](mailto:keara@fec-co.com)

### Essay Topic:

Choose one of the Seven Cooperative Principles and explain how Farmers' Electric Cooperative demonstrates that principle in action.

\*The Seven Cooperative Principles are:

- Open and Voluntary Membership
- Democratic Member Control
- Members' Economic Participation
- Autonomy and Independence
- Education, Training and Information
- Cooperation Among Cooperatives
- Concern for Community



Two junior class finalists will be chosen by a panel of judges for the Youth Tour. Three sophomore class finalists will be chosen for the C.Y.C.L.E. conference. The winners will be announced in February of 2026. These are all-expense paid experiences are provided by Farmers' Electric Cooperative. Farmers' Electric will provide all transportation, including picking up and returning the student to his or her residence, if needed.

**DEADLINE: 01 • 16 • 2026**

**Good luck to all!**