

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

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!