



Washington Youth Tour: Trip of a Lifetime

Starting June 9, 2016, Central Georgia EMC sent Washington Youth Tour delegates Livia Lanier Geiger and Morgan Morris on the trip of a lifetime to Washington, D.C. They traveled with 111 other EMC delegates from across Georgia to learn about electric cooperatives, visit historical monuments, and view political processes. We asked them to put into words what the trip meant to them. Here are their responses:

Livia Lanier Geiger, a junior at Spalding High School, found the trip life changing.

What did attending the Washington Youth Tour mean to you? Attending the Washington Youth Tour changed my high school experience. I was in the company of many sensational student-delegates from different backgrounds, yet we were able to come together as one to learn how our nation's capital works. The trip was fun and action packed. I never had time to be bored. The trip was truly an experience I will never forget. I am so grateful to Central Georgia EMC for affording me the fabulous opportunity.

What lesson from the Washington Youth Tour do you think will serve you the best in life? There was a guest speaker at one of the seminars who suffered a gunshot when he was younger, paralyzing him from the waist down. He explained that everyone in life has problems, big or small, but that your attitude toward the problem will change your experience completely. Bad things are thrown at people every day, but we

always have to look at the positive side. This message will stick with me forever.

What would you tell the next group of delegates? Remember your life before the tour because your perspective will change afterward for the better. You meet so many new amazing friends, make connections all over the state, and possibly the nation. Also, stay open-minded so you will get the most out of the opportunity.

Morgan Morris, a senior at Jackson High School, developed her leadership skills.

What tour stop or activity made the greatest impression on you? The Newseum made the greatest impression. My whole life I have been interested in journalism, writing, and filming. The Newseum had all of that and more.

Do you think the Youth Tour will help you become a better leader? Yes. Developing great leadership skills empowers you to walk into a room full of strangers and make at least five friends in the first minute. That is what I was able to do on this trip.



From left, Morgan Morris and Livia Lanier Geiger represented Central Georgia EMC on the 2016 Washington Youth Tour.

Louis Tonsmeire/
Photo illustration by Gayle Hartman

What would you tell the next group of delegates? I would advise them not to hesitate and to apply for the trip. This opportunity only comes once in a lifetime, and you should take advantage of all the possibilities the trip will bring. Walking into a room full of strangers can be a little scary and stressful, but all those feelings wash away quickly. The Washington Youth Tour was the best week of my life.

Eligible high school students interested in attending the Washington Youth Tour in 2017 can apply on our website at www.cgemc.com/washington-youth-tour.

Winter Rates

Central Georgia EMC's winter rate structure is now in effect. The winter residential charges are:

Winter Rates (November – April)*

First 700 kWh.....	\$0.0852 per kWh
More than 700 kWh.....	\$0.0574 per kWh

*Rates do not include the Wholesale Power Cost Adjustment, which could vary each month.

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Residential Service Rate Adjustment Will Take Effect January 1, 2017

Effective with member billings that begin on January 1, 2017, Central Georgia EMC's residential service charge will adjust to \$22 per month from the current \$19. This adjustment moves the residential service charge closer to the true cost of service for residential customer-owners. We monitor the costs associated with providing service on a yearly basis to ensure our charge is an accurate reflection of the current cost of service.

"The actual monthly cost to provide electric service to a residential location is \$37.28 per month," according to Central Georgia EMC President/CEO George L. Weaver. The service charge is a fixed amount each billing period. The service charge covers member accounting, power distribution (construction, maintenance, metering, and outage restoration), and availability of energy from a generating source.

"We work every day to deliver safe, reliable electric service at the lowest practicable cost," said Weaver. "To facilitate this, we must continually evaluate our current and future expenses to maintain the system's integrity and the financial soundness of the cooperative."

Currently, more than 69 percent of revenue pays for the cost of purchasing power. Another 13 percent covers fixed charges such as taxes, interest, and depreciation. That leaves 18 percent to cover expenses associated with the cost of service.

Even with this adjustment to the service charge, Central Georgia EMC remains one of the lowest-cost electric utilities in the state. Customer-owners may compare current residential rates online at the Georgia Public Commission website: <http://www.psc.state.ga.us/electric/surveys/residentialrs.asp>.

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Heating your living space uses more energy than any other system in your home—typically, about 42 percent of your utility bill. By combining proper equipment maintenance and upgrades with recommended insulation, air sealing, and thermostat settings, you can save about 30 percent on your energy bill.

—Source: energy.gov

Decorate Safely

Homeowners start decorating their homes for Christmas earlier and earlier—often before Thanksgiving.

Before you start hanging lights, take safety precautions. Nearly three people per hour are treated in hospital emergency rooms for decorating-related injuries during the holiday season, according to the National Safety Council.



Here are four ways to stay safe if you have decorating duty this season:

1. Inspect last year's lights before using them. Discard any with frayed or exposed wires, loose connections, or broken sockets.
2. Decorate the tree with children and pets in mind. Place breakable ornaments near the top of the tree, where they are out of reach.
3. Use sturdy ladders when decorating outdoors. Indoors, use stepladders instead of climbing onto chairs, which are not designed to support someone in the standing position.
4. Hiding extension cords under rugs or furniture is dangerous. Cords can overheat and catch fire.

LED Outdoor Lighting Brings Color and Clarity

Central Georgia EMC is transitioning from sodium vapor outdoor lights to light-emitting diode (LED) outdoor lights. This transition will take place as older sodium vapor lights require maintenance.

Over the 14-county service territory, CGEMC serves more than 16,000 outdoor lights that are leased to customer-owners for a single monthly fee. That fee will not change with the installation of the new LED light.

The LED lights have a longer lifespan, are durable in inclement weather, and require less maintenance. The LED lights produce a white light as compared to the sodium vapor's golden tint.

Customer-owners should report light outages, lights staying on all day, or blinking lights. Outdoor lighting issues can be reported at cgemc.com/outdoor-lighting/ or by calling our office at 770-775-7857.



Thank You, Load Management Participants

Central Georgia EMC would like to thank all customer-owners who participated in the 2016 Load Management Switch Program. Participating customers can look for an annual bill credit on their November statement (\$20 for an air-conditioning switch and \$10 for a water heater switch, with a \$30 maximum credit).

Your cooperative was able to shed 11 megawatts of peak system load this summer with the help of the 7,529 load management switches placed on air-conditioning units and electric water heaters.

CGEMC enacted load management 14 times from June 1, 2016, to August 31, 2016, allowing us to save about 770,000 kilowatt-hours during peak energy usage times.

Thanksgiving Holiday

Central Georgia EMC's office will close on Thursday, November 24, and Friday, November 25, in observance of the Thanksgiving holiday. In case of a power outage, call our 24-hour automated outage system at 770-775-7857 or 800-277-4877 for an immediate response. System operators will be on duty to assist you.

HAPPY
THANKSGIVING

Recipe of the Month



Double Chocolate Mocha Trifle

*From the kitchen of
Tamara Henderson*



Ingredients:

- 1 (19.8-ounce) package of brownie mix
- 1 3/4 cups cold milk
- 2 (3.3-ounce) packages instant white chocolate pudding mix
- 4 teaspoons instant coffee granules
- 2 tablespoons warm water
- 2 cups frozen whipped topping, thawed
- 3 (1.4-ounce) bars chocolate-covered toffee bars, chopped

Directions:

Prepare brownies according to package directions. Bake and cool completely. Cut into 1-inch cubes. In a medium bowl, whisk together milk and pudding mix until mixture begins to thicken. Dissolve coffee granules in water and stir into pudding mixture. Fold in whipped topping. In a glass serving or trifle bowl, layer one-third of brownie cubes, one-third of pudding mixture, and one-third of candy. Repeat layering until all ingredients are used. Top with candy. Chill 30 minutes in the refrigerator before serving.

We are in search of your favorite winter recipes. If you have one to submit, please send to 923 S. Mulberry St., Jackson, GA. 30233, Attn: Vicki Jolley, or email to vjolley@cgemc.com. Please include your account number. You will receive a \$20 credit on your next electric bill for published recipes.



Central Georgia EMC

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News & Views is published and distributed monthly to all members and customers of Central Georgia EMC.

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for more information please visit
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