

## **Jefferson Energy Selects 2011 Washington Youth Tour Delegates**

Three local high school students will spend one week of their summer attending the 46th annual Washington Youth Tour, an all-expense paid leadership experience sponsored by the electric membership corporations (EMCs) in Georgia.

Selected by Jefferson Energy Cooperative, Jessica Oliphant and Mathew Usry of Glascock County Consolidated School, and Falon Sellers of Harlem High School will be among the 103 high school students on the weeklong leadership event set for June 9-16. In addition, Georgia's students will join more than 1,500 students from 44 states for the events in Washington, D.C.

As Georgia's oldest leadership program for teens, the Washington Youth Tour is designed to teach high school students about U.S. history, government and the importance of public service.

According to Steve Chalker with Jefferson Energy, the Youth Tour is an opportunity for exceptional students to personally meet with members of Georgia's congressional delegation and to visit historical points of interest in the nation's Capitol.

"Many adults have never made the trip to D.C. nor have they had personal meetings and conversations with their elected officials," said Chalker.

"We're honored to give these deserving students an experience where they will meet peers from across the country, make lifelong friendships, and learn firsthand of the sacrifices made by others in order for them to live in a free society."

Former students contend the trip far exceeded their expectations. Any reservations or nervousness on their part soon disappeared following teambuilding exercises as friendships with other delegates and chaperones formed quickly.

Before flying to Washington, D.C., students spend a day in Georgia where they visit Atlanta sites and tour the Little White House in Warm Springs. In D.C., stops include Ford's Theater, the Smithsonian Museums, Holocaust Museum, Union Station, Mount Vernon, Supreme Court, Capitol, Washington Monument, and the Jefferson, World War II, Lincoln, Korean War and Vietnam Veterans monuments and memorials.

The youth will also participate in a wreath laying ceremony at Arlington National Cemetery, view the United States Marine Corps Sunset Parade at the Iwo Jima Memorial, attend a Congressional meeting with U.S. Representatives, and meet both U.S. senators from Georgia.

The Washington Youth Tour was inspired by former president Lyndon Johnson who, in 1957, encouraged electric cooperatives "to send youngsters to the nation's capital where they can actually see what the flag stands for and represents."