

**Press Release  
For Immediate Release**

**Chalker**

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**Jefferson Energy Sponsors Students on Washington Youth Tour**

**(Wrens, July 1, 2008)** – No student returns home unchanged after spending a week in the nation’s capitol as part of the Washington Youth tour sponsored by the state’s electric membership corporations (EMCs), including Jefferson Energy Cooperative.

“They come back with a new life experience after touching history and seeing our government at work,” says Steve Chalker with Jefferson Energy Cooperative.

For over 40 years, Georgia’s EMCs have been sending young people on the fast paced, activity packed tour of Washington, D.C. This year, 105 delegates joined over 1400 other kids from around the country for the June tour.

Representative Brooks Coleman, chairman of the Georgia House Education Committee and keynote speaker at the tour kickoff banquet, calls the tour a “life-changing experience” that allows students to see government in action.

“They get to rub elbows with their elected officials and interact with students from all over the country,” said Coleman. “We’re talking about the cream of the crop—students thirsting for knowledge. They come home and they’re never the same; this tour acts as a launching pad for their future as leaders.”

Jefferson Energy is proud of the four local students that participated in this year’s tour. They were: from Thomson High School, Elizabeth Hawkins, from Cross Creek High School, Mitchell Lovett, and from Jefferson County High School, Maria Cain.

“These three students represented us well on the statewide level and in Washington, D.C. as well,” said Steve Chalker. “We’re very proud of all of them and know they will go far in life,” he added.

Mr. Chalker encourages all young people to watch for more information about the 2009 Washington Youth tour. Jefferson Energy goes to nine local schools to solicit participation in the program.