



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

04/03/09

Local Youth Attend Leadership Summit

Grant Davis of Cascade High School and Travis Hunt of Richland High School were among 44 high school juniors representing 22 electric cooperatives across the state who attended the Tennessee Electric Cooperative Association's annual Youth Leadership Summit March 16-18 in downtown Nashville.



Pictured with Senator Jim Tracy of Shelbyville are (from left) Grant Davis, Cascade High School, Travis Hunt, Richland High School and Ann Throneberry, DREMC Home Energy Specialist.

“The annual summit teaches students about the important roles of electric cooperatives in Tennessee’s rural communities and provides an opportunity to

see, in person, the legislative process in the Tennessee Capitol," said Joe Jackson, TECA director of youth and member relations.

"We had another excellent group of outstanding students attend the summit this year," Jackson said. "It's no surprise, really, considering the highly competitive and selective process they undergo to earn a spot on the trip. Local electric cooperatives, along with school officials and guidance counselors, chose these students based on their interest in government and their leadership abilities."

Hosted by TECA and funded in part by the National Rural Utilities Cooperative Finance Corporation, a not-for-profit cooperative financing institute that provides an independent source of financing to member cooperatives nationwide, the 2009 summit's theme was "Leadership Rocks."

"It is encouraging to see such motivated students in our service area," said Ann Throneberry, DREMC Home Energy Specialist. "These young people will one day be the leaders of our communities, and we are privileged to provide them with this opportunity to join their peers from across Tennessee to learn about state government and rural electric co-ops."

The summit kicked off with get-acquainted and leadership-development activities followed, led by cooperative employees and special guests.

Students rose early on Tuesday for breakfast and preparations for a visit to Legislative Plaza where they would meet their state legislators and sit in on House and Senate committee meetings. Amy Gallimore, director of leadership with TRI Leadership Resources LLC, gave an excellent presentation on

leadership before TECA Director of Government Affairs David Callis introduced State Rep. Phillip Johnson of Pegram, who welcomed the students to Tennessee's capital and discussed the legislative process with them. Callis then explained current bills affecting cooperatives and described what everyone should expect from the legislative committees they were to visit.

The 11th-graders then took a tour of the State Capitol and moved on to Legislative Plaza, seeing state government in action and posing for photos in front of the historic Capitol. Davis and Hunt were able to meet with their Senator Jim Tracy and Representative Eddie Bass in front of the capital and pose for pictures.

Following the visit to Capitol Hill, the group enjoyed leadership activities at a Nashville-area YMCA camp. After dinner, students were treated to a tour of Nashville before returning to the hotel for a special competition playing on the summit's 2009 theme.

Wednesday morning, the students learned more about Tennessee's electric cooperatives. The vital role co-ops play in the communities they serve was emphasized through activities in which students formed their own co-ops, making decisions on such important topics as rights-of-way maintenance, bill disputes and power outages. Later, they put it all together, answering trivia questions about electric cooperatives and the state in the "Energy Battle" competition.

"We offer these educational experiences for our students — our future members — because we want them to understand what makes a cooperative

special," says Ann Throneberry of Duck River Electric. "We want them to be able to appreciate their electric cooperative and understand why it was so important to form electric cooperatives in the first place," Throneberry says.

Grant Davis is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Marty Davis of Shelbyville and Travis Hunt is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Hunt of Lynnville. Both families live in the DREMC service area.