

2009 Youth Tour - Washington, D.C.

Valley Telephone Cooperative is sponsoring one student's attendance at the 2009 Youth Tour in Washington, D.C. which is scheduled for May 30-June 3.

This program, funded by VTX Communications, gives students a first-hand look at the telecommunications industry and the legislative process by visiting Congress, the Federal Communications Commission and other government agencies. They will also visit famous historical sites including the Washington Monument, the Smithsonian Institution, the National Cathedral, the U.S. Capitol, and Arlington National Cemetery.

Applications for the Youth Tour should be sent to the General Manager of Valley Telephone Cooperative at 480 South 6th Street, Raymondville, Texas 78580. The application deadline is March 16, 2009.

The following are the criteria for the Youth Tour program:

Eligibility Requirements

Applicants for the 2009 Youth Tour must be a dependent child (as defined in IRS publication 501 at www.irs.gov) of a current natural member of Valley Telephone Cooperative who resides in the Cooperative area, and who has been a member of the Cooperative for at least one year as of the application deadline date.

Applicant must be a permanent resident of the VTCI service area, a high school student, age 16 or 17 years old at the time of the youth tour, and have a minimum high school grade average of 80%.

Award Criteria

The 2009 Washington D.C. Youth Tour award is based on merit. Consideration is given to academic performance and future potential as determined by:

- High school grade average, rank in class and leadership ability
- Participation in academic-related activities to demonstrate critical thinking and applied knowledge (science fairs, math teams, debate tournaments, etc.)
- Statement of education and career goals
- An appraisal by a school official
- An essay, not to exceed 250 words, on the following topic: "Tomorrow's Telecommunications Needs"

Other Information

VTX Communications will pay the student's airfare, hotel charges, meals, ticketed events and miscellaneous expenses. Students are chaperoned by National Telephone Cooperative (NTCA) staff. Students are met at the airport gate upon arrival in Washington, D.C. by NTCA staff.

The Application Process

Applications must be sent to the General Manager of Valley Telephone Cooperative at 480 So. 6th Street, Raymondville, Texas 78580 and postmarked no later than midnight, March 16, 2009. Valley Telephone Cooperative cannot accept faxed copies; however, photocopied applications are acceptable.

Questions from members should be directed to Paulette Lefner, Executive Assistant, at 1-800-446-2031 ext. 133, or by writing her at Valley Telephone Cooperative, 480 So. 6th Street, Raymondville, Texas 78580.