



WCEC PRESS RELEASE

2019 Government-In-Action Youth Tour Delegate Named Abbie Farrar Earns “Trip of a Lifetime”

February 12, 2019

EL CAMPO, TX – Wharton County Electric Cooperative is pleased to announce Abbie Farrar as our 2019 Government-in-Action Youth Tour delegate. Abbie is a senior at El Campo High School and is the daughter of Shayne and Senae Farrar (District 9).

She is a member of the National Honor Society, Student Council, Interact Club, Chamber Ambassadors, Fellowship of Christian Athletes and the FFA Advocacy Team. She is Student Body Vice-President and plays volleyball.

Abbie serves as a student worker at Myatt Elementary and hopes to work with children as an occupational therapist. She is also a caretaker for an elderly neighbor once a week. She enjoys spending time with her family, hunting, fishing and camping.

Abbie’s essay, “Saving Lines and Saving Lives,” earned her the top spot out five candidates in the competition this year. This year’s topic was “Should electric linemen be considered first responders? Why or why not?”

“First responders are defined as people who are ‘designated or trained to respond to an emergency’ and in my eyes, and many others, this is exactly what an electric lineman is,” Abbie states. She goes on to tell the story of a family friend who was involved in an auto accident. The vehicle struck a utility pole, and he was trapped inside the vehicle with live wires on the scene. He could not receive emergency aid until WCEC linemen made the scene safe.

She also points out that linemen often respond in natural disasters giving Hurricane Harvey as an example. She remembered seeing line crews on the news – always in the background working to restore power. “They were the silent conductors in the background of the chaos helping to keep the whole situation under control,” she says.

“[They are] brave men, who are out in the rain, the cold, and extreme storms all so we can all hopefully return to normal. They help us to find light after the storm. They are heroes and we owe them a debt of gratitude,” Abbie concludes in her essay.



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The Government-in-Action Youth Tour is a youth leadership program sponsored by Wharton County Electric Cooperative and organized by Texas Electric Cooperatives and the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association. The trip allows young adults the opportunity to tour national historic sites, experience cultural diversity, visit U.S. congressional offices, and learn about electric cooperatives and the energy industry. The trip has been called a “Trip of a Lifetime” by many who have participated.

Abbie will join over 1,500 youth delegates from electric cooperatives across the nation for her trip in June.

Each year, Wharton County Electric Cooperative sponsors one high school student from our membership. For more information about the Youth Tour, please contact Brenda Rodriguez at (979) 543-6271 or visit www.mywcec.coop/youthtour.