

Satilla REMC Newsletter



Local Students Selected for Prestigious Washington Youth Tour



Aly Drott



Abbie Hill



Isabella Sweat



Riley Thomas

Area high school students Aly Drott, Abbie Hill, Isabella Sweat and Riley Thomas have been selected to participate in the 2026 Washington Youth Tour (WYT) sponsored by Satilla REMC and the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA).

The teen delegates will explore government on a local and national level, gathering in Atlanta before departing for Washington, D.C.

Aly, Abbie, Isabella and Riley will join more than 100 other students from Satilla REMC's sister electric co-ops across Georgia for this once-in-a-lifetime trip, which is set for June 12-19.

After their arrival in Washington, D.C., Georgia's delegation will convene with more than 1,500 youth representing cooperatives across the nation. Delegates will have an opportunity to mingle with peers from other states and exchange views concerning local and national issues.

The Washington Youth Tour challenges teens to consider the part they play in history, government and the cooperative movement. The Youth Tour also encourages teens to become involved citizens and to consider careers in public

service. They will see firsthand the sacrifices that have been made by influential individuals throughout the country. Satilla REMC's representatives already understand sacrifice to some extent, as all are leaders in their respective schools and communities.


Aly Drott

Aly is the daughter of Lori and Dennis Drott. She is a rising senior at Atkinson County High School in Pearson. Aly takes pride in being an involved member in some of her school's extracurricular activities, including SkillsUSA, Spanish Club and Beta Club.

She has played clarinet for five years in her school concert and marching band, and she is the section leader. Aly is also a member of her school's book club. She has always loved reading and finds joy in exploring and experiencing different perspectives through reading and discussion.

Aly loves giving back to her community. She has dedicated her time and services at the Ronald McDonald House, the local hospice center and with youth in her community. Aly's

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Since 1965, the Washington Youth Tour has given more than 2,500 students in Georgia and more than 50,000 students nationwide an opportunity to take part in this once-in-a-lifetime experience.

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passion for dance has recently led her to a position assisting her dance teacher at the local dance studio. This has been one of her most challenging but rewarding pursuits.

Aly plans to attend the University of Georgia, where she has set a goal to obtain a bachelor's degree in biology. She is excited about the upcoming WYT trip and looks forward to seeing U.S. government in action.

Abbie Hill

Abbie attends Coffee County High School in Douglas, where she is also a rising senior. She is the daughter of Stacey and Chis Hill. Throughout high school, she has been involved in many school-related activities, including varsity cheer and tennis.

She is also a member of the National Honor Society and serves as the community service director, in addition to Art Club, Student Council and Fellowship of Christian Athletes.

Abbie volunteers at community events, including Night to Shine, Camp 151, Miracle League and the Gopher Tortoise Festival. She enjoys spending time at these local events and supporting others.

Abbie plans to continue her academic journey by graduating from Coffee County High as an honor graduate. Next, she hopes to attend the University of Georgia to major in business or prelaw and later attend law school. She is excited about the upcoming trip and is eager to learn about our nation's history.

Isabella Sweat

Isabella is the daughter of Alli and Dusty Sweat. She is a rising senior at Ware County High School in Waycross. She is involved in a variety of extracurricular activities, including DECA, where she serves as executive vice president and leads meetings. She is also an active member of Beta Club and the National Honor Society, and she volunteers her time for both clubs.

Isabella has been a starting player for the Gators' varsity soccer team for the past three years. She is also on the Junior Board of Directors for Hospice Satilla, where she gets hands-on experience in her community. Isabella is also a member of Destination Church, serving more than 50 individuals at their downtown ministry.

After high school, Isabella plans to attend the University of Georgia and earn her Bachelor of Science in dietetics. She

believes the WYT will make a positive difference in her life that would be impactful now and in the future.

Riley Thomas

Riley is a rising senior at Pierce County High School in Blackshear. She is the daughter of Chad and Melissa Thomas. Riley participates in a variety of extracurricular activities, including the Pierce County Chamber of Commerce Leadership Academy, Future Farmers of America, Hospice Satilla Junior Board, Chick-fil-A Leadership Academy, Beta Club and Fellowship of Christian Athletes. She is also a member of the Student Advisory Council, Pierce County Math Team, Pierce County Volleyball Team and a class officer.

Riley gives back to her community by volunteering her time as an Okefenokee Swamp Park Junior Ambassador, helping at the special Olympics and assisting at various school and church events.

Her long-term goal is to continue working on her family farm and grow what her father, brother and grandfather have built through the years. Riley plans to earn a degree in business and finance/agribusiness.

She is very enthusiastic about the WYT and feels that she will become a more productive citizen by seeing places of historical significance.

Of the 16 candidates interviewed, the decision to pick four was challenging. All the candidates would have represented Satilla REMC well, and they all are to be congratulated for being nominated by their school counselors and principals for outstanding leadership qualities and abilities.

Then Sen. Lyndon B. Johnson inspired the Youth Tour when he addressed the NRECA Annual Meeting in Chicago in 1957. The senator and future president declared, "If one thing goes out of this meeting, it will be sending youngsters to the national capital where they can actually see what the flag stands for and represents."

Since 1965, the Washington Youth Tour has given more than 2,500 students in Georgia and 50,000-plus students nationwide the opportunity to take part in this once-in-a-lifetime experience.

Satilla REMC and other cooperatives continue to realize former President Johnson's dream by providing a means for young leaders to witness firsthand the sacrifices and efforts expended on their behalf.

Summary of Bylaws Relating to the Committee on Nominations for the Election of Directors at the 2026 Annual Meeting

SECTION 5.-NOMINATIONS

It shall be the duty of the Board of Directors to appoint, prior to the next Annual Meeting, a committee on nominations consisting of three (3) Members from each District in which a Director is to be elected (the "Nominating Committee"). The Members on any such Nominating Committee must not be candidates for Director, incumbent Directors, or close relatives (third cousin or closer) of known candidates for Directors, or incumbent Directors, and such Members of the Nominating Committee must not be Cooperative officers, employees or agents. The Nominating Committee shall prepare and post at the principal office of the Cooperative at least one hundred and five (105) days prior to the Annual Meeting, its nomination(s) for the office of Director for the counties represented by the Nominating Committee. Any one hundred fifty (150) or more Members from any District from which a Director is to be elected, acting together, over their signatures, and not less than ninety (90) days prior to the meeting, may make an additional nomination; provided that the signatures on all such nominations will be subject to verification (for the purpose of verification, the Member's name shall be printed next to the Member's signature). Should the ninetieth (90th) day fall upon a weekend or holiday, then said petition shall be due by 4 p.m. on the last working day prior to the weekend or holiday on which the ninetieth (90th) day actually occurs. The President/Chief Executive Officer, upon being personally presented with any such additional nomination(s) shall, immediately following verification of the validity of the petition by the Credentials and Election Committee, post such nomination(s) at the same place where the committee nominations are posted. No action taken by any Nominating Committee may be amended, repealed or in any way overruled by the Board of Directors, any committee thereof, or the Members.

The Secretary shall mail to the Members, with the notice of the meeting, or separately, but in any event at least five (5) days prior to the meeting, a statement of the names and addresses of each nominee, and opposing nominee(s), if any, showing nominee(s) nominated by the Nominating Committee separately from the nominee(s) nominated by petition, if any. After all nominations by the Nominating Committee and nomination(s) by petition, if any, have been verified and duly posted within the time limits prescribed above, the nominations will be closed, and there will be no nominations made from the floor, and there will be no write-in candidates. Provided, however, that one or more nominations may be made from the floor under the provisions set forth in Article IV, Section 10-Special Nominations and Elections. No Member of one District shall have any right to vote for the Director of another District, except (a) Brantley District Members, who will vote with Pierce District Members for a Pierce District Director, (b) and Irwin and Ben Hill District Members, who will vote with Coffee District Members for a Coffee District Director.

Districts up for election in 2026 are Appling and Coffee. Appointed to the 2026 Nominations Committee for the Appling District are Ann Eason, F. Floyd Hunter and Wayne F. Lee. Greg Batten, Roy Harper and Tracy Lott have been appointed to serve on the 2026 Nominations Committee for the Coffee District.

ANNUAL MEETING OF MEMBERS

The Satilla REMC Annual Meeting of Members will be held Tuesday, Oct. 13, at Memorial Stadium in Waycross.



Statement of Nondiscrimination

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Membership Corporation
P.O. Box 906
Alma, GA 31510

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Telephone Numbers

Alma Office

(912) 632-7222

Douglas Office

(912) 384-1964

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ENERGY EFFICIENCY Tip of the Month



Did you know ceiling fans can help you save energy? Ceiling fans create a windchill effect on your skin to make you feel a few degrees cooler. Raise the thermostat a few degrees and turn on fans to reduce air conditioning costs.

Set fan blades to rotate counterclockwise during summer months and clockwise during winter months. Remember, ceiling fans cool people but don't actually lower the indoor temperature. Turn them off when you leave the room.



—Source: energy.gov