

2024 Youth Tour - Washington, D.C.

Valley Telephone Cooperative, Inc. is sponsoring one student's attendance at the 2024 Youth Tour in Washington, D.C. for June 3 - 7.

This program, funded by Valley Telephone Cooperative, 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 Valley Telephone Cooperative at 881 E. Hidalgo Avenue, Raymondville, Texas 78580, Attn: Christina Tamez. The application **deadline is March 15, 2024**.

Youth Tour Program Eligibility Requirements

Applicants for the 2024 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 2024 Washington D.C. Youth Tour award is based on merit. Consideration is based on 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: **“What is the digital divide? Why is it important to bridge the digital divide?”**

Other Information

VTC 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.

Application Process

Applications must be submitted to Valley Telephone Cooperative at 881 E. Hidalgo Avenue, Raymondville, Texas 78580, Attn: Christina Tamez and postmarked no later than midnight, **March 15, 2024**. Valley Telephone Cooperative will not accept faxed copies; however, photocopied applications are acceptable.

Members with any questions, please contact Christina Tamez, at 956-642-1133, or by writing her at Valley Telephone Cooperative, 881 E. Hidalgo Avenue, Raymondville, Texas 78580.