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NatalieByrnes: Natalie Byrnes, Waukon, Waukon High School

OliviaMarti: Olivia Marti, Waukon, Waukon High School

REC Youth Tour Winners Announced

Allamakee-Clayton Electric Cooperative has selected two area high school students to go on an all-expense-paid Youth Tour trip to Washington, D.C. Natalie Byrnes and Olivia Marti, both of Waukon, will depart from Des Moines on June 17 for Washington D.C. Both students are juniors at Waukon High School.

The two students will join 1,800 other high school sophomores and juniors from across the nation for this once-in-a-lifetime trip. Youth Tour applicants answered a practice test and essay question. Finalists meet personally with a panel of judges who quizzed them on their knowledge of rural electrification and the Cooperative form of business.

The 2023 judges were Connie Euans, Calmar; Janice Koenig, Castalia, and LeAnn Meyer, West Union.

For many REC Youth Tour winners, it will be a week of firsts: First week away from home, first airplane flight, and first time seeing the famous sites of Washington, D.C. They return with impressions of a culture far different from the small towns and farms usually served by electric cooperatives. Highlights of the trip include a boat tour on the Potomac River, the National Mall, Ford's Theater, Holocaust Memorial, the White House and meeting state representatives at the U.S. Capitol.

All high school sophomore and junior students whose parents or legal guardians are members of ACEC are eligible to participate in the Youth Tour contest. Information on the 2024 contest will be available from the Cooperative and in the offices of area high school guidance counselors beginning in December. Additional information is available at acrec.com and youthtour.coop.

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