



**Left to Right:** Area students participating in the Washington Youth Tour, sponsored by the Upper Cumberland Electric Membership Corporation and the Tennessee Electric Cooperative Association are, from left, Adam Goolsby - Gordonsville High School, Matthew Thomas Davis - Smith County High School, Hannah West - Upperman High School, Hallie Sevier - Livingston Academy, Grace Clinard - Jackson County High School, and Carl F. Ledbetter with Upper Cumberland Electric Membership Corporation.

### **Local Students Depart for Nation's Capital**

CARTHAGE, Tenn. — Five students from the Upper Cumberland Electric Membership Corporation (UCEMC) and more than 130 students from across Tennessee are headed to Washington, D.C., as a part of the 2018 Washington Youth Tour.

The annual event, which began on Friday, June 8, provides young leaders with an opportunity to explore the nation's capital, learn about government and develop their leadership skills. These students are being sponsored by the **Upper Cumberland Electric Membership Corporation** and the Tennessee Electric Cooperative Association. Upon their high school graduation, UCEMC awards each of the five students with a \$1,000 educational scholarship.

The students were selected for the trip by writing a short story titled "Electric Cooperatives – Going Beyond the Wires" that explains how co-ops provide communities with much more than electric power.

"The youth tour is an incredible opportunity for these students to actually experience history up-close and personal," UCEMC General Manager Jimmy Gregory said. "Delegates experience a whirlwind of a week, visiting museums, monuments and other landmarks."

President Lyndon Johnson inspired the tour in 1957 when he encouraged electric cooperatives to send youngsters to the nation's capital. In the years since, more than 6,000 young Tennesseans have been

delegates for the Washington Youth Tour. Politicians, business leaders, authors and athletes are Washington Youth Tour alumni, including Apple CEO Tim Cook.

Upper Cumberland Electric Membership Corporation has more than 49,000 customers and more than 4,600 miles of power lines running through its service area primarily in Smith, Putnam, Jackson and Overton counties. UCEMC also services members in portions of Clay, Fentress, Macon, Pickett, White and Wilson counties. UCEMC's corporate headquarters are located in Carthage, Tennessee.

The Tennessee Electric Cooperative Association provides leadership, advocacy and support for Tennessee's 23 electric cooperatives and publishes *The Tennessee Magazine*, the state's most widely circulated periodical. Visit [tnelectric.org](http://tnelectric.org) or [tnmagazine.org](http://tnmagazine.org) to learn more.