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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE Crawford Electric announces youth leadership trip winners

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BOURBON – Seven high school juniors from Cuba, Steelville, Sullivan and Viburnum won unique leadership-development experiences as part of Crawford Electric Cooperative's annual Youth Tour competition. The students' families, friends and teachers attended the April 2 event to determine the D.C. trip winners.

Clara Gibbs of Viburnum High School, Tessa Newman of Sullivan High School and Natalie Orick of Steelville High School earned all-expenses-paid trips to Washington, D.C. for Youth Tour. As Youth Tour delegates, they will join more than 1,500 students from across the country for the national program. Besides a whirlwind tour of iconic monuments and museums, students will experience unique leadership-building opportunities and fun group activities over a week in June.

Four students earned the opportunity to attend the Cooperative Youth Conference and Leadership Experience (CYCLE). The CYCLE delegates are Lauren Bumba of Steelville High School, Ryan Thompson of Cuba High School, and Macey Barton and Kristian Poole of Viburnum High School. In July, the students will spend time in Jefferson City learning more about state government, leadership skills and electric cooperatives. The program also features a day trip to St. Louis with a visit to City Museum.

The competition began with Crawford Electric choosing finalists based on students' essays about a historical event that was meaningful to them. Finalists were invited to the cooperative, where they participated in a knowledge quiz and interviews with a panel of independent judges. This year's judges were Mary Jane Clark, retired Youth Tour coordinator at Cuivre River Electric Cooperative; Chris Massman, director of Missouri's statewide delegation to the Youth Tour; and Jenni Cremer, a 2005 Youth Tour finalist from Cuba who is a biology teacher at Vienna High School.

Crawford Electric Cooperative is a member of Touchstone Energy, a national alliance of locally owned, community-minded electric co-ops with high standards of service. Crawford Electric serves more than 20,000 meters along almost 3,000 miles of distribution lines mostly in Crawford, Franklin, Gasconade, Washington and Dent counties.

