



## Deadline nears for government youth tour, scholarship program

There's no better way to immerse yourself in American history and government than visiting Washington, D.C. Bluebonnet service area high school students are invited to apply for a free trip to our nation's capital as part of Bluebonnet's Government-in-Action Youth Tour. Applications are due Jan. 27, 2017.

Two students (in 10th, 11th or 12th grade) will be selected to visit the U.S. Capitol, meet members of Congress and see historical sites from June 7-16, 2017. They will also receive a \$500 scholarship during their senior year.

Bluebonnet is also offering \$2,500 scholarships to graduating high school seniors who are pursuing a trade and technical certificate, an associate degree in a vocational field, or a bachelor's degree. The deadline for the Scholarship of Excellence program is March 1, 2017.

Applicants for both programs must live in the home of a parent or legal guardian who is a current Bluebonnet member with an active account and who resides in Bluebonnet's service area (including towns and cities that are within Bluebonnet's service area). Students in accredited home extended-study programs are eligible to apply.

Applications are available through area high school counselors and vocational instructors, at Bluebonnet's five member service centers in Bastrop, Brenham, Giddings, Lockhart and Manor and at [bluebonnet.coop](http://bluebonnet.coop). Hover over the Community tab, and click on Scholarships.

For more information, contact a member service representative at [memberservices@bluebonnet.coop](mailto:memberservices@bluebonnet.coop) or 800-842-7708.



## Resolutions to save energy, money in 2017

12 New Year's resolutions will help save electricity and money

**JANUARY:** Turn your thermostat down by about 10 degrees before you go to bed or leave home in the morning. You can save up to 1 percent on heating for every degree you lower the heat for eight consecutive hours.

**FEBRUARY:** Pull your refrigerator away from the wall and vacuum or dust its condenser and coils. Clean coils can help prevent your fridge from overheating.

**MARCH:** Spring for an annual inspection of your heating and air-conditioning system to keep it running efficiently and smoothly all summer.

**APRIL:** Hire a licensed electrician to inspect your home's wiring system (at least once a decade).

**MAY:** Wash your windows – inside and out – and open the drapes. The sun can warm and brighten your rooms better through clean windows.

**JUNE:** Trim your hedges, shrubs or trees to keep them far enough from your house that they don't pose a hazard/problem, but close enough to shade windows from summer's heat.

**JULY:** Grill your dinner outside and serve fresh, cold salads as side dishes, giving your stovetop and oven a rest.

**AUGUST:** Run your clothes washer, dryer and dishwasher after dark to keep heat and humidity out of the air.

**SEPTEMBER:** Get that heating and air-conditioning tech back to the house for a winter heating inspection and tune-up to save on your winter bills.

**OCTOBER:** Seal air leaks around windows, doors and other openings with caulk and weather-stripping. Don't forget places where cables and wires come through walls.

**NOVEMBER:** Close off your fireplace and use it just for special occasions. Every time you use it, your home's heated air flies up the chimney.

**DECEMBER:** Replace those old holiday lights with LED fixtures, which last for years and use far less energy.

## Four Bluebonnet Board seats up for election on May 9

Bluebonnet Electric Cooperative is accepting applications for its Board of Directors through Feb. 8. Bluebonnet members will elect four directors to the board during the co-op's Annual Meeting on May 9.

The Board is made up of 11 directors who serve staggered three-year terms. The four seats up for election this year represent District 3 for Bastrop County; District 4 for Lee, Milam and Williamson counties; District 6 for Austin, Colorado and Fayette counties; and District 7 for Washington County.

Candidates can be nominated either by presenting an application for nomination with at least 50 signatures from co-op members in their respective districts or by paying a \$250 filing fee in certified funds.

The candidate must be at least 21 years old and a co-op member in good standing. He or she also must agree to a background check and meet other qualifications outlined in Bluebonnet's bylaws, which are available at [bluebonnet.coop](http://bluebonnet.coop). Hover over the About tab, click on Leadership and then click on the Be-

coming a Director link.

Application for nomination forms are available at the co-op's member service centers in Bastrop, Brenham, Giddings, Lockhart and Manor and at [bluebonnet.coop](http://bluebonnet.coop), under the About tab and then Reports & Forms.

All candidates' petitions, filing fees and application for nomination forms must be submitted at a member service center by 4 p.m. Feb. 8.

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