

# Indiana youth travel to Washington, D.C.

Southern Indiana Power was a proud sponsor of the 2010 Electric Cooperative Youth Tour to Washington, D.C. Area students participating in this year's trip included Jason Carey from Heritage Hills High School and Ariel Etienne from Tell City High School. This trip marks the 51st year that Indiana's electric cooperatives have hosted the Youth Tour, giving young Hoosiers the opportunity to visit our nation's capital to learn about government and electric cooperatives.

This year's trip began on June 10 in Indianapolis with a tour of the Indiana Statehouse and an orientation program at Indiana Statewide Association of Rural Electric Cooperatives, Inc. Delegates returned home on June 17.

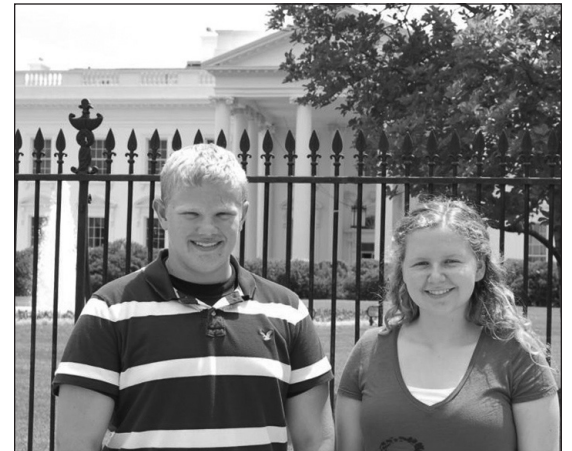
According to Michael Hammack, president and CEO, the 2010 Indiana delegation was comprised of 73 students from all over the state, each selected by his/her local cooperative. This year, nearly 1,500 students from across the country joined Indiana's delegation in Washington for the four-day conference hosted by the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association.

"Southern Indiana Power is pleased to be able to provide this opportunity for our local students," Hammack said. "It's a great trip and a wonderful chance to see the sights, make new friends and learn how everyone, including young people, can make a difference in the political process."

On the way to Washington, students visited Gettysburg Battlefield and Baltimore's Inner Harbor. While in the nation's capital, the tour included visits to sights such as Arlington National Cemetery; the Lincoln, Jefferson and war memorials, the National Mall museums, the Newseum, and the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars. The delegates were honored to meet with Hoosier natives Lee Hamilton and C-SPAN CEO Brian Lamb. Hamilton is a former congressman from Indiana and current director of the Woodrow Wilson Center.

During the "Youth Tour Rally," students heard about the "Our Energy, Our Future™" project which focuses on the importance of responsible carbon legislation and the need for affordable energy. Nebraska State Sen. David Landis offered an historical portrayal of electric cooperative pioneer and champion George Norris, while keynote speaker, four-time Olympic medalist in USA Men's wheelchair basketball, Mike Schlappi, shared his inspirational message and encouraged the students to "stand out" no matter what they choose to do with their life.

The trip highlight was a luncheon on Capitol Hill where delegates met with Indiana Congressmen Joe Donnelly and Brad Ellsworth, as well as Neil Brown, special advisor to Sen. Richard Lugar and professional staff member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. Following



**Jason Carey from Heritage Hills High School and Ariel Etienne from Tell City High School pause for a photo outside the White House during their time in Washington, D.C.**

lunch, Rep. Mike Pence joined the delegates on the steps of the U.S. Capitol for a group photo and an impromptu question and answer session about current events.

Southern Indiana Power supplies electric power to over 8,500 homes and businesses in the rural areas of Perry, Spencer, southern Dubois and eastern Warrick counties. It maintains over 1,500 miles of power line.

## Touchstone Energy Camp teaches students about electricity, safety

This year 124 students were able to combine education and fun while attending the 2010 Touchstone Energy Camp.

The camp, held June 9-12 at YMCA Camp Tecumseh near Brookston, provided sixth graders from all around the state a chance to learn about basic electricity, electric safety, renewable energy and the role of an electric cooperative, while still enjoying traditional camp activities including horseback riding, archery, swimming, and leadership skill development.

Southern Indiana Power, a Touchstone Energy cooperative, sent two students to the annual camp program. Local student participants included Ryan Waninger of St. Meinrad and Joshua Kimbril of Tell City.

This is the eighth year that Indiana's rural electric cooperatives have sponsored the program. Several employees from the state's electric cooperatives also participated as camp chaperones.

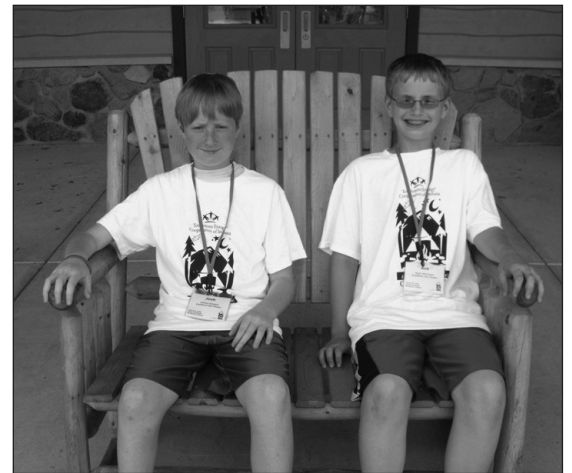
A highlight of the camp was a "live line"

demonstration that showed the danger lurking in live power lines and provided instructions on what to do if they ever encounter a power line in a car accident or other situation. Campers also found out what it's like to be a lineworker as they climbed a pole and donned heavy safety equipment used by lineworkers to keep safe while working around electricity.

**Campers found out what it's like to be a lineworker as they climbed a pole and donned heavy safety equipment used by lineworkers to keep safe while working around electricity.**

"The students left camp with an appreciation for the work of co-op employees," explained Michael Hammack, Southern Indiana Power president and CEO "Not only did they get to ride in a bucket truck, they had to perform difficult tasks like removing a cotter pin from a coupling while wearing safety gloves, or using a lineworker's tools to grasp an eyehook. Co-op employees perform tasks like these every day, in all kinds of weather and conditions."

Touchstone Energy is a national alliance of local, consumer-owned electric cooperatives providing high standards of service to custom-



**Joshua Kimbril of Tell City and Ryan Waninger of St. Meinrad attended Touchstone Energy Camp.**

ers large and small. More than 660 Touchstone Energy cooperatives in 46 states are delivering energy and energy solutions to more than 30 million customers every day. Touchstone Energy cooperatives serve their members with integrity, accountability, innovation and a long-standing commitment to communities.