

June 29, 2005

### **Nashville youth to represent Arkansas on national leadership council**

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. – (June 29, 2005) -- Keri Sims of Nashville has been selected to represent Arkansas on the Youth Leadership Council (YLC) of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA). Sims will attend the YLC Conference, July 16-20, 2005, in Washington.

Sims was selected for the YLC during the recent Rural Electric Youth Tour to Washington sponsored by the Electric Cooperatives of Arkansas, which provide electricity to more than 440,000 members in Arkansas and surrounding states. Sims and 40 other Arkansas students toured the nation's capital during the all-expense-paid trip on June 15-23. Sims was selected by the tour chaperones to serve on the YLC for Arkansas.

Sims will be a senior next fall at Nashville High School. As chapter president of the Arkansas State Family Career and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA) group, she represented the FCCLA on the tour. The Electric Cooperatives of Arkansas sponsor high school juniors from each of the 17 electric distribution cooperatives in the state on the tour, as well as a student representative from the FCCLA, the FFA (Future Farmers of America) and the Arkansas 4-H.

The conference agenda includes speech presentation skills, grassroots advocacy and a competition for the position of NRECA's national youth spokesperson in 2005-2006. In addition, Sims and students from 42 other states will attend a team-building workshop and develop legislative skills by taking part in a role-playing game that simulates the first term of a congressman. The July conference will provide a broader understanding of the electric cooperative industry and the cooperative business model. Another major objective for the student is to write and present a dynamic speech, which is part of the selection process for the national youth spokesperson who will address electric cooperatives from across the nation at the NRECA Annual Meeting in 2006 in Orlando, Fla.

All members of the YLC will participate in the 2006 NRECA Annual Meeting. They will provide assistance to the NRECA staff and cooperative delegates at the national meeting, participate in the Parade of States at the opening General Session, and take part in a variety of educational activities that will prepare them for future endeavors in the electric cooperative industry, government organizations, or community service.

NRECA is the national service organization representing the nation's more than 900 private, consumer-owned electric cooperatives, which provide electric service to 38 million people in 47 states. The Electric Cooperatives of Arkansas comprise 17 electric distribution cooperatives; Arkansas Electric Cooperatives Inc. (AECI), a Little Rock-based cooperative that provides various services to the distribution cooperatives; and Arkansas Electric Cooperative Corp. (AECC), a generation and transmission cooperative.

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