

NORA News



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Annalysse Salazar Represents NORA at NRECA Youth Tour



For the first time since 2019, due to pandemic restrictions, NORA was able to select and send a delegate to the NRECA (National Rural Electrical Cooperative Association) Government in Action Youth Tour in Washington D.C. This year's delegate was Annalysse Salazar who will be entering her senior year at Escalante High School this fall. Annalysse was chosen for the all-expense paid trip after submitting an application and a two-page essay on electrical safety in the home.

On Monday June 12th, Annalysse met up with the other delegates from rural cooperatives around New Mexico at the NMRECA State Office in Santa Fe. There, they were able to get acquainted, receive their itinerary, and prepare for the week ahead. The students also received a guided tour of the State Capitol building and were given a lesson on how the voting process works during the state legislature and how a bill becomes a law.

On Tuesday, June 13th, the students flew to Washington D.C. where they met up with more Youth Tour delegates from across the country and embarked on an action-packed week of activities including assorted conferences featuring many keynote and inspirational speakers. The group concluded their tour by flying home on June 18th.



Photos by Raelynn Bean & Annalysse Salazar



NORTHERN RIO ARriba ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE
Annalysse Salazar

One of the first things they were able to experience was attending the US Marine Sunset Parade. The students also received an extensive tour of the many historic monuments and attractions in our National's Capital including a tour of Arlington Cemetery where they were able to witness the Changing of the Guard at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. Delegates also had the opportunity to tour the US Capitol building and the office of senator Ben Ray Lujan.

Annalysse said that one of her favorite spots that she visited was the National Cathedral. She also appreciated getting a hands-on opportunity to learn about numerous historical events in a way that the classroom cannot replicate through their visit to the Holocaust Museum and the 911 Pentagon Memorial. She also enjoyed getting to tour the Washington Monument, Thomas Jefferson Memorial, the FDR Memorial, and the Martin

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Office Hours: Open 7:00am to 5:30pm Monday-Thursday-Closed Friday

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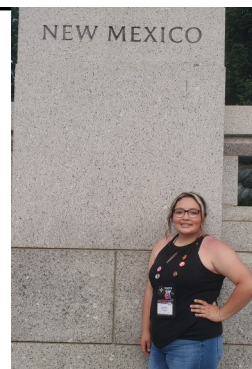
Luther King Jr. Memorial. "I learned so much more than what history class has taught."

One of the speakers that Annalysse learned from was a woman who grew up in a rural community that had no electricity. She spoke about how the NRECA was able to introduce affordable electricity to rural communities for the first time.

For Annalysse, this was her first time flying. "I had never been out of state without my parents before this," she commented. "I wanted to be able to go (on the Youth Tour) to make friends and meet new people." As a middle schooler, Annalysse had hoped to fly to Washington D.C. through the Close-Up program offered through the school. However, that opportunity was cancelled due to the pandemic restrictions.

Overall, Salazar had a great experience and recommends the trip to other students. NORA Electric Cooperative also highly recommends that more students take advantage of this enriching experience in the future. The next opportunity for Escalante's junior class to apply for the Youth Tour will take place December or January. For more information, incoming juniors can contact their school counselor or the NORA office.

Annalysse Salazar is the daughter of Benji and Jessica Salazar of Chama, NM. She will begin her senior year at Escalante this fall where she is also taking dual credit courses through CNM and the University of New Mexico. After graduating in the spring of 2024, she plans to attend college to study to become an ultrasound technician.



Upcoming Important Dates:

Aug. 14th: Deadline Golf Tournament Registration

Aug. 26th: 23rd Chama Valley Open Golf Tournament - Pagosa Springs Golf Course.

Sept. 4th: NORA Office closed for Labor Day

Sept. 25th: NORA's Annual Member Meeting
Down Home Lodge & Family RV (formerly El Meson)



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NMRECA is conducting a digital survey with GreatBlue Research to gather opinions about the *enchantment*, the official magazine of rural electric cooperatives in New Mexico.

Our goal is to make sure the *enchantment* serves the needs of cooperative members across our great state.

Please visit www.surveys.greatblueresearch.com/s3/NMRECA-Readership-Survey-2023, or scan the QR code on this page, to access the survey and tell us what you think about *enchantment* magazine's content and format.

Questions or assistance? Call 1-888-969-7956 or send email to info@nmelectric.coop.

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