

The right stuff

Shown left to right,
WFEC Executive Vice
President and CEO
Bill Rimes congratulates
Casey Gurganus, winner;
Emily Hand, alternate;
and Jeremy Branch,
winner of WFEC's 2000
Youth Tour competition.



Area students win trip to Washington, D.C.

*Contestants will represent WFEC at the
National Youth Tour this summer*

Two local high school juniors will take a week-long, all-expenses-paid trip to the nation's capital this summer, courtesy of West Florida Electric Cooperative. Graceville High School student Casey Gurganus and Grand Ridge High School student Jeremy David Branch were named winners of WFEC's 2000 Youth Tour competition, held March 6. Emily Hand, a Blountstown High School student, was named alternate.

In June, Gurganus and Branch will join other students representing electric cooperatives from throughout the country during the National Youth Tour in Washington, D. C. The trip will include a breakfast with congressional representatives, a Potomac River cruise, and visits to several historic sites, including the U. S. Capitol Building, the White House, Ford's Theatre, Arlington National Cemetery, the Lincoln and Jefferson Memorials, the Vietnam Veterans Memorial and the Holocaust Memorial Museum. All the local competitors will enjoy a two-day trip to Tallahassee March 10 and 11 to tour both the old and new state capitols, meet government officials and observe the legislature in session.

Thirteen high school juniors from schools throughout WFEC's service area in Calhoun, Holmes, Jackson and Washington Counties vied for the trip to the U. S. capital. The contestants were chosen by their high school guidance counselors to represent their schools in the competition. The contest is limited to eleventh-grade students whose parents or guardians are WFEC members.

The competition, which included a dinner for the participants and their guests, was held at Falling Waters Country Club in Chipley. A three-judge panel quizzed the students about their knowledge of WFEC, the rural electrification program and energy facts. Then the panel,

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composed of experts from other co-ops, evaluated the students' responses, communication skills, poise and personalities, and rated Gurganus, Branch and Hand highest.

The winners may compete against winners from other co-ops in Florida to serve on the Youth Consulting Board (YCB). Comprised of Youth Tour students from across the country, the YCB assists in all phases of the Youth Tour program, at both the state and national levels. The Youth Tour program's purpose is to provide public recognition to outstanding young people, and to acquaint high school students with governmental activities on a local, state and federal level.



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