



January 2024

UPCO news

My Washington Youth Tour experience

By *Mayah Fry*

When I heard the news that I was chosen as Upson EMC's Washington Youth Tour delegate for the year 2023, I was not ecstatic in any way. I am a homebody who enjoys time with my family, playing at the pickleball courts with my friends or simply hanging out. So, having to go out of my way to meet 120 other random students from around the state, I was nervous, scared and unprepared. I quickly realized how honored I was to be chosen as the delegate for this trip. It is a distinguished once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for which I will be forever grateful.

Onto who I am. Hi, I am Mayah Fry, a senior at Upson Lee High School. I come from a small town in Georgia named Thomaston, also known as "T-Town." Growing up in Thomaston comes with its pros and cons. As small and tightknit as Thomaston is, my family, the Frys, are very well-known in our community. Even though, at times, I may not show it, my family is everything to me. Living in a household of nine can be very hectic, containing fights and arguments, but there is so much more to a big family than it seems. My parents teach us to live life to the fullest, enjoy every second and be grateful for each blessing.

For me, the Washington Youth Tour was and is still an



KATHRYN GREEN

Delegates and chaperone Brittany Shadix, center, gather in front of the U.S. Supreme Court. Mayah Fry is third from the right.



DOBY PHOTOGRAPHY

Delegates meet with U.S. Rep. Drew Ferguson at the United States Capitol. Mayah Fry is in the second row, center.

ongoing blessing in my life. Beginning the trip was a blast, but in the back of my mind, I had already conjured up I'd be very different from others participating in this opportunity. So much so that I wasn't sure I wanted to participate at all. But boy, was I wrong. It was the complete opposite. In just one week, strangers turned into acquaintances, acquaintances turned into friends and friends turned into best friends. Best friends for life. I can always count on them picking up a phone call, answering texts or even something as simple as sending an encouraging TikTok or Instagram post. I immediately connected with a particular group of people at our first icebreaker game at the Atlanta Airport Marriott: The 22-96 Club! Now, I won't go into detail on our inside joke, but I know you would laugh at us for it. Maura Kate, Luke,

Continued on page 22B

My Washington Youth Tour experience,

Continued from page 22A

Jayden, Anna Kate, Tubby and Collin are my best friends. They are smart, funny, encouraging, a little weird in a good way, of course, and just altogether wonderful people I truly enjoyed meeting this summer.

The trip showed us many things about our country. We may have already known some facts from our history classes, but we learned more on this trip with a deeper understanding of true patriotism. Seeing every memorial, government property and a history lesson from our early years of school put into real physical perspective how amazing and blessed we are to live in the United States. A solid belief of how truly confounding it is to live in such a historically rich and incredible country.



Mayah Fry enjoys her time at Mount Vernon, George Washington's home.



Mayah Fry, Upson EMC's 2023 Washington Youth Tour delegate, along with Andy Paul, Georgia EMC's Washington Youth Tour coordinator, stand in front of Lincoln's statue at the Lincoln Memorial.

The Lincoln Memorial is a tribute to Abraham Lincoln, the 16th president of the United States. It is a true marvel because it honors his leadership during the American Civil War and his commitment to equality and freedom. It symbolizes unity and reminds us of his powerful speeches, like the Gettysburg Address. The Lincoln Memorial is a fantastic monument that holds so much history. Seeing the Lincoln Memorial in person was one part of the trip that I will never forget. The memorial is so intricate and a piece of history that will forever be important to all citizens of the United States.

During this experience, each day was a new and astonishing adventure. Exploring, entertainment and friendships were all assured. Without Andy Paul, "AP," none of this trip would have been possible. He ensured we had our schedule for the week before the journey started. We could plan everything and know our itinerary without extra questions. AP made the trip more than just a "school trip." It was the trip of a lifetime. We all had so much fun just enjoying the week with each new friend. We learned new games, but most of all, we all came out of the trip a better leader than before. AP and all the chaperones helped lead us to become better students, friends and leaders. I learned the importance of what a leader is. Not only does a leader direct and lead those around them, but they are also a friend who reaches out, checks on others and ensures the atmosphere is always at its best. Looking back to my closed mindset about this trip, I am overwhelmingly thankful for the people who assisted with my mindset change.

On our last night of the trip, we could all share the moments we enjoyed the most during the journey. To me, this was the most memorable part of the Washington Youth Tour. We had gone from strangers to best friends in less than



Delegates stand in front of the FBI Building in Washington, D.C. Mayah Fry is fourth from the left.



Delegates met with Georgia's U.S. senators on the Capitol steps.

a week. From wanting to be home already to never wanting to leave our new best friends who had impacted us more than we could have ever fathomed, which didn't seem real. This opportunity changed me. I am endlessly thankful for the people, places and things that made me realize it was okay to venture into a new experience. I want to thank Upson EMC and Thomaston-Upson Chamber of Commerce Youth Leadership for this opportunity to leave my comfort zone. Thank you to all the sponsors and leaders in my life who allowed me to attend this wonderful life-changing trip. Because of this, I, Mayah Fry, am changed for the better.



U.S. President Franklin Delano Roosevelt created the Rural Electrification Administration, which played an instrumental role in supplying electricity to rural communities.



At the U.S. National Archives, Luke Mitcham, Middle Georgia EMC delegate; Jayden Daniel, Tri-County EMC delegate; Mayah Fry, Upson EMC delegate; Collin Ulm, Georgia EMC delegate; and Maura Kate Waters, AnnaKate Hollingsworth and Kaitlyn Tanner, Satilla REMC delegates, stop for a quick pose in front of the Doors of Monumental Proportions.

Undelivered capital credits refund checks

The names listed below are people who have capital credits refund checks available to them. The checks were mailed to members but were either returned by the post office as undeliverable or were never cashed.

AT&T c/o YVONNE RILEY	BOYD LARRY MITCHELL	COFFMAN DOUGLAS *	EUBANKS SHIRLEY S	HAGLER ALVIN D *
AARON SAMUEL W ESTATE	BRADEN JAMES M	COMMONWEALTH PARTNERS INC	FAGAN RHONDA	HALE FORREST L *
ADAMS ANNIE RUTH ESTATE	BRAGG CHRIS *	COMMUNITY SUPERETTE	FAIRCLOTH SHANNON D SR	HALL LAMAR
ADAMS BESSIE MAE	BRAMLETT JESSE C	CONLEY BESSIE M	FARMER LINDA	HAMILTON MICHELLE
ADAMS CHARLIE	BRASHEARS SHIRLEY J	COOK ANTHEA	FARMER RICHARD *	HAMMER MICHAEL
ADAMS CHRIS	BRIGHT BARNEY EARL	COOK DANNY	FEAGIN ANNIE	HAMMOCK JOY *
ADAMS GLENN P	BROOKS ROBERT T	COOK TRACY	FEATHER REATHA	HAMMOCK NEIL ESTATE
ADAMS KEVIN M *	BROWN BETTY S	CORLEY AL	FENDER HOPE	HAMMOND JAMES D * ESTATE
ADAMS ROBERT C	BROWN STEVEN RAY JR	CORLEY DONALD MARK	FENNELL FRANCES M	HANEY JAMES W
ADAMS W C *	BROWN W C *	COTTON DOUGLAS B *	FERGUSON JOHN TYE	HANEY TARA
ALLEN BELINDA *	BROWN WILLIAM *	COVENTRY ED *	FINLEY JEAN H	HANNAH MILL CONV CORNER
ALLEN LILLIE M	BROWNING JODAY L	COVENTRY EDWIN E III *	FIVE STAR - EDENFIELD DIV	HARDNETT PRIMUS
ALLEN RICKY R	BRUNER W E	COVINGTON NELLENE S ESTATE	FLANDERS HARRY E *	HARISHUK MARGARET
ALLEN ROBERT C	BRUNSON VICKI F	COWARD BERTHA JONES	FLEMING GRADY JR	HARPER THOMAS L
ALLMON JEWELL *	BRYAN ELIZABETH	COX JAMES TERRY *	FOGARTY SHIRLEY D	HARRELL JOSEPH R
ANTHONY EARNEST *	BUCHANAN ANN	COX MELISSA ANN *	FORRY JEFF L	HARRIS ANTHONY *
ASBILL STEVEN W D *	BUCHANAN ROY W *	COX RONALD C	FOSTER MASEL L	HARRIS MICHAEL S
ATWATER GEORGE SR *	BUCK PARKER B *	CRAFT RUBY	FOSTER PATRICIA ELAINE	HARRIS RANDY L
AYERS MARLA *	BULLARD EUGENIA D	CRAVEN ADAM T	FOSTER WOODROW W	HARRIS WILLIAM L
BAILEY CHARLES H	BUNDLE HERMAN *	CRAVEN BUFORD SR * ESTATE	FOWLER BETTY S	HARRISON JANICE
BAILEY FRANCES B	BURDETT WESLEY *	CREWS JAMES C	FRANKLIN ANDY W	HARVELL H G MRS
BAILEY J W *	BURGESS GEORGE C II	CROSSFIELD R H	GA ARMY NAT GUARD FMO	HEATON KENNETH L *
BAILEY WAYNE C *	BURKETT SHERI K	DALRYMPLE CECIL W	GADDY R C	HELMS CONNIE
BALES CHARLES I *	BURROW MAE BELL ESTATE	DAVIDSON MARIANNA S	GAHAGAN BETTY M ESTATE	HENDERSON PETER H
BANDIERA JOE *	BURROW DEBBIE	DAVIS LORI ANN	GALAVITZ DON E	HERNDON JACK B SR
BANISTER MARCUS L *	BURTON HAROLD F	DAVIS W T *	GARNER RAY	HICKS JAY LESTER
BANKS NEDRA FAYE	BUSSEY JUDY	DAVISON JACQUELINE	GARNER RAY & TONYA *	HIGGINBOTHAM RALPH G
BANKSTON J C *	BUTTS GRACE	DAWS A D *	GARNER TIMOTHY M *	HILL FLORA
BARBER CHRISTOPHER S *	BUTTS JAMES A	DAWSON YOLANDA E	GARRETT BECKY	HILLIDGE BETTY L
BARFIELD BOB	CALLAHAN ALVIN E	DEDO WILLIAM C	GASSETT TODD	HILLIDGE NORMAN
BARKER LEN H	CARDELL WENZELL	DENSON TAWANA L	GERECKE JERRY W	HINES WILLIAM JACKSON
BARRETT STEPHEN G	CARPENTER EARL B	DENT WOODSON *	GIDDEN OZELLE	HITSON TRAVIS R
BARRON LUCILLE H *	CARR ANDREA F	DISHION STEVEN *	GILES LEE E *	HOLLAND JODY K
BARROW FRED O *	CARRIKER LOUNEAL	DIXON WILLIE F	GILHAM KEVIN B	HOLLOWAY JONATHAN L
BAZEMORE PATRICIA K *	CARRIKER ROBERT	DOBOZY CHARLES D	GILMORE GLADYS	HOLLOWAY KATIE
BEARD STEVEN	CARTER DAVID M	DOMINGUEZ NELLY J *	GOBLE LEON FRANK	HOLMES JOHN *
BECKHAM CALVIN	CASDORPH BRYAN *	DONSON TOM *	GOFF LOYD B *	HOOKS SILVER A ESTATE
BEECH SHEP	CATOE JAMES N III	DOTY SANDRA	GOODWIN DAVID E *	HOPKINS MARIAM
BERMEL GREG J *	CAULEY MICHAEL	DRIGGERS LISTON L	GORDY ELMO	HORTON JEFF
BEVERLY CINDY LYNN	CHAFFIN BARRY	DURAN JOSE A	GORDY FRANK *	HOUSE H G *
BIBB BYRON L	CHAMBERS CARL E	DURHAM LISA	GRAVITT THOMAS CAL	HOUSE SANDY D
BIDDY MILES	CHANDLER JOE	EARWOOD MICHAEL J	GRAY ADLINE	HOWARD EARL MRS ESTATE
BIGGS JAMES T	CHANEY ANNIE	EASOM RUBY H	GRAY LILLIE GRACE	HOWINGTON DENNIS L JR *
BLANKENSHIP DEBORA ELAINE	CHASE ROBERT L	EASY SHOP - STORE	GRAY MELVIN C JR	HOYAL JOE
BLANKENSHIP JOHN L	CHENEY MAMIE *	ELLERBEE CHARLIE P *	GREEN ERMA L	HUCKABY GEORGE J *
BLANKENSHIP JOHN P	CHERRY ANDRA S	ELLERBEE FREDDIE & SARA *	GREEN TIMOTHY R	HUCKABY MARGARET
BLEVINS CARL F	CHERRY GERTRICE	ELLERBEE MARY C	GREENHILL DAVID L *	HUCKABY MARY J
BLOUNT LUCILE ESTATE	CLARK MISTY D	ELLERBEE WILLIE M *	GRESHAM DEBBIE W	HUDSON RACHEL D
BLOUNT RICHARD *	CLARK THELMA	ELLINGTON JESSIE MRS	GRIGGERS JACKIE D	HUDSON WAYNE
BLOUNT SEALEY K	CLAY BENNIE K *	ELLIS J A	GRISSON CARLA	HUFF HAROLD *
BODIE DAVID W *	CLAY DEBORAH S	ENGLISH CHRIS	GROVE LESTER G *	HUGHES RANDY L
BOOTH JAMES M *	CLEM BRAD S	ENGLISH KATHLEEN A	GUNN SHAWNA M	HULL LARRY L
BOWLING MARK S *	CLEVELAND STEVIE	ERSKINE DAVID R ESTATE	GUNTER JOYCE A	HUNT KERMIT R

STATEMENT OF NONDISCRIMINATION

Upton Electric Membership Corporation is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

If you wish to file a Civil Rights program complaint of discrimination, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, found online at www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html, or at any USDA office, or call (866) 632-9992 to request the form. You may also write a letter containing all

the information requested on the form. Send your completed complaint form or letter by mail to U.S. Department of Agriculture, Director, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, DC 20250-9410, by fax (202) 690-7442 or email at program.intake@usda.gov.