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UPCO news

My Washington Youth Tour Experience

By Athens McGlon

Every year, Upson EMC selects one student to represent our community on the Washington Youth Tour. This year, I'm honored to be one of them.

Hello, my name is Athens McGlon, and I was the 2025 Upson EMC Washington Youth Tour Delegate. This trip provided me with great memories and amazing opportunities to learn and grow while getting to see our nation's capital.

My journey began with me being interviewed, and I was selected to be a delegate in mid-February. Once selected, I was still unsure of what to expect and was quite nervous about traveling with people I had never met.



KATHRYN GREEN



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As the months went on, my excitement grew more and more for the trip, and while still uncertain, I understood how much of an honor this was. I knew that I was going to have a great time on this trip, so I just let the excitement build.

After all the anticipation and nerves, the day finally came when I got to Atlanta for my first day as a delegate. Arriving at the Atlanta Airport Marriott and walking into the ballroom with all 115 of my fellow delegates felt unreal. Being the only delegate from my EMC, I truly knew no one else, but this excited me as I would get to meet and learn the stories of each delegate. After many icebreakers, I felt like I was a part of a large family, and my excitement grew even further to get to spend the week with them.

Our plane departed from Atlanta, and we landed at Ronald Reagan

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Washington National Airport and got to explore the Waterfront District. That night, although the first, was one of the most memorable; I got to learn a lot about my new friends and explore our new home for the week on our own.

On Sunday, my day started at Arlington Cemetery, a place that left a very somber feeling as I got to see the guard exchange and a wreath-laying at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, all during a light rain and fog. After gaining that sense of appreciation for soldiers who died for my freedom, we went to the White House. Although having to stand behind the gate for photos, getting to see this famous, breathtaking building was an inspiring experience and one of my personal favorite stops on the trip.

We concluded the day in a very humorous way as we went to a Toby's Dinner Theatre show, which was very funny. After eating way too much, we watched a play of "The Little Mermaid," which—while comedic—was really good. I also got to meet delegates from other states, such as Oklahoma, which made the experience even better.

The next day was very long as there



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were about 27 miles of walking due to going to Mount Vernon and a plethora of memorials such as the Martin Luther King Jr., World War II and Franklin Delano Roosevelt memorials. All of these helped me to grow and respect the amount of history that Washington, D.C., contains.

Mount Vernon was a beautiful home, and the idea of being in Washington's home left a lasting impact on me. On top of this, a few



CHIPPER JONES

delegates decided to buy cheap bugle horns from the gift shop, which quickly became annoying, not even 10 minutes later.

Tuesday was my favorite day of the trip as it was the day we got to go to the Capitol. Getting to see the symbol of freedom firsthand was awe-inspiring, and the architecture that housed the place where our nation's laws are made was unlike anything I had ever seen before. During this visit, I got to go into the Library of Congress and get my own Library of Congress card, which

is definitely my favorite souvenir.

It was also on this day that I got to meet Sen. Raphael Warnock. We waited for him on the stairs of the Congress building, and when he came out, he walked up and shook my hand, which was an unforgettable moment to have a U.S. senator shake my hand. He spoke to us, and we got to depart and finally take off suits and ties in the hot weather, which was very relieving.

The next day was my second-favorite day and consisted of getting to free roam and explore the Smithsonian museums, but first, we visited my second-favorite stop on the tour, the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum. This stop honestly made me cry while walking through it. Getting to see what these people endured during the Holocaust was sickening and left a horrible feeling in my stomach. This stop left me emotionally upset, but I am so grateful for it and the opportunity for me and my fellow delegates to reflect on and be genuinely sad because these events together are something I will never forget.

I then visited a plethora of

Smithsonian museums, such as the Air and Space Museum, with my friend Thomas. Prior to the trip, I had been informed that I had won a trip to the top of the Washington Monument. This provided me with a view of all of D.C.'s great landmarks and an amazing experience.

On our final day, we got to visit the Lincoln Memorial, and our trip concluded in a similar way to how it began, with somber rain, which led to a downpour as we headed back to the hotel to conclude our trip. We all said our good-byes in the D.C. airport as we knew it would be crazy doing so in Atlanta, and although I knew the trip had ended, the journey had only just begun.

There are not enough words in the world I could say to express what this trip meant to me, and it truly was the opportunity of a lifetime. I frequently think back to bus rides where I got to learn the most about my new friends and all the memories we shared. I still constantly keep up with them and check in and see how they are doing or what they are up to.

Without this trip, I would not have



KATHRYN GREEN

gained 115 new friends, or memories that are unforgettable. I am so grateful Upson EMC gave me this opportunity to see, learn and grow as not just a leader, but as a person to better my community, my state and my country. This experience was a week of a lifetime and has shaped me to be who I am today.

Claim undeliverable capital credits by October 1 deadline

In compliance with O.C.G.A. § 44-12-236 of the Disposition of Unclaimed Property Act, Upson EMC is attempting to locate members whose capital credits checks were issued but have been returned by the U.S. Postal Service as "undeliverable" or have otherwise been unclaimed.

A current list of these members and instructions for claiming these

funds is posted on Upson EMC's website at upsonemc.com and maintained at our corporate office located at 607 East Main Street, Thomaston, GA 30286, for review from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday. If you believe you may be entitled to receive a patronage capital allocation that was paid by Upson EMC in 2020, please contact member services at (706) 647-5475.

To claim these funds, you must

show adequate proof of identity, as well as provide information relating to your membership account with Upson EMC. The last possible date to claim these funds is October 1, 2026. If capital credits refunds are not claimed by this date, they will be used for economic development or education, or donated for charitable uses, as permitted by O.C.G.A. § 44-12-236.



Upson EMC launches new, member-focused website

Upson EMC is excited to announce the launch of its brand-new website designed from the ground up to better serve our members. The updated site delivers a cleaner layout, easier navigation and quick access to the tools you rely on most.

With the new design, members can easily:

- Pay bills online or manage account settings.
- View local outages.
- Find contact information and member resources faster than ever.

The website is mobile-friendly, accessible and built with our community in mind. Whether you're checking your balance or learning about cooperative news, Upson EMC's new

website helps make your experience simple and convenient.

Quick access: Scan the QR Code

To make getting to the new website even easier, Upson EMC has introduced a QR Code that takes you straight to the homepage.

How to use it

1. Open your smartphone's camera or QR-scanner app.
2. Point your camera at the QR code so the full image fits within the frame.
3. A link will appear on your screen tap the notification to open the website instantly.



There's no need to type in the web address or search for the site. One quick scan and you're there.

Holiday Closing

Upson EMC's office will be closed for New Year's holiday on January 1, 2026.

STATEMENT OF NONDISCRIMINATION

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Coming soon: a new Upson EMC mobile app

In addition to the new website, Upson EMC is working on a brand-new mobile app designed to give members even more convenience at their fingertips. The upcoming app will make it easier than ever to manage your electric service on the go. Members can look forward to features such as:

- Quick and secure mobile bill pay
- Outage reporting and status updates
- Push notifications for important alerts
- Access to account history
- And more tools to help you stay connected with your cooperative

Keep an eye on Upson EMC's next newsletter, social media and future bill inserts for the official launch date. We're excited to bring you another convenient way to manage your account right from your smartphone.

