

Local high school students selected for SECPA programs

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LA JUNTA – The Southeast Colorado Power Association has announced that three southeast Colorado youth have been selected to take part in special summer programs that help youth learn about electric cooperatives and develop leadership skills.

Both programs were open to high school students who are at least 16 years old by June 1, 2010, and whose families are SECPA members.

The National Rural Electric Cooperative Association Washington, D.C. Youth Tour is scheduled for this June. SECPA is sending Kyle Hartshorn, a junior at Granada High School. Hartshorn, the son of Kerry and Shawna Hartshorn of Granada, is very active in school and community activities, including football, baseball, FFA, Knowledge Bowl, National Honor Society, drama, 4-H, Junior Colorado Cattlemen's Association and square dancing. In addition, he volunteers with the 9Health Fair, assists with local cemetery clean up and is a member of the Amache Preservation Society.

Hartshorn's week in Washington, D.C., will provide in-depth exposure to the electric cooperative network while exploring our nation's capitol. All expenses – including airfare, lodging and meals – will be paid by SECPA. Activities planned during the week include tours of the U.S. Capitol, Washington Monument, Lincoln Memorial, the Vietnam and Iwo Jima Memorials, Arlington National Cemetery, National Archives, the White House and Smithsonian museums and more. Hartshorn will also have the opportunity to meet with Colorado's U.S. senators and representatives and to connect with other students from around the nation.

In addition to the Washington, D.C., youth tour, SECPA is sponsoring the 2010 Colorado Electric Education Institute Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp July 18-23, 2010. This camp is held near Steamboat Springs and is an excellent opportunity for youth to learn about electric cooperatives, government and to build on communication and leadership skills. SECPA will sponsor Andrew Bartolo and Cara Larsen, both students at Swink High School, to attend this year's camp.

The Youth Leadership Camp is an opportunity for students from Colorado, Kansas, Oklahoma and Wyoming to participate in activities that improve leadership skills while giving them an inside look at the state and national legislatures.