

Valley TeleCom Group

Washington Youth Tour Competition



Valley TeleCom Group is inviting all high school students ages 16-17 to enter the Washington Youth Tour Competition for an opportunity to visit Washington DC in June 2026. The competition will consist of an essay or video submission and an interview.

Topic: If you could invent one piece of technology to solve a problem in your community, what would it be and why?

Essay Format: Write a 500-word essay. This must be typed and double-spaced. Please do not include your name on your essay as copies will be sent to our judges. Submit your essay with the attached application for identification purposes.

Video Format: Produce a 1-2 minute original video. The video should be HD quality (720p or better) in horizontal format. The video will need to be uploaded to YouTube or Vimeo, send link to the video with the application.

Eligibility

1. The contest is open to all high school students, age 16 or 17 at the time of the tour. (Tour dates June 1-5, 2026)
2. Student must be living with in the Valley TeleCom Group Service Territory.
3. Parent(s)/Guardian(s) must be a current active customer of Valley TeleCom Group for a period of at least a year.
4. Student must have a valid Driver's license or State issued ID suitable for identification purposes for plane travel.

Rules & Regulations

1. Entries must be received by February 28, 2026. Entries may be submitted by email: to heather.floyd@teamvtg.net, mail: Valley TeleCom Group Attn: Heather Floyd PO Box 970, Willcox, AZ 85644 or dropped off in person at our Willcox Headquarters at 752 E Maley, Willcox, AZ 85644.
2. Entries will be judged by the staff of Valley TeleCom group. Entries will be judged on the basis of originality, theme, communicative ability and format.
3. Top essay or video submissions will move on to phase 2 of the contest and be interviewed at Valley TeleCom's Willcox and/or Animas office between March 2 & March 13, 2026.
4. Scores from the submitted essay or videos and the interview will be combined to determine the final winners.
5. The winners must agree to allow Valley TeleCom Group to publish his/her name (on the Valley TeleCom website, social media platforms and in the Annual Meeting Notice booklet. Winner addresses and email addresses will be kept confidential and will NOT be published.

Winners

Two winners will be chosen as delegates to represent Valley TeleCom Group at the Foundation for Rural Service's Washington Youth Tour. The delegates will enjoy an all-expenses-paid five-day trip to the Nation's Capital, including visits to historic sites and national landmarks and the opportunity to meet their peers in planned student activities. The tour will be from June 1- 5, 2026.

Valley TeleCom Group

Washington Youth Tour Application

Student's full name:_____

Age:_____ **Grade in school:**_____

School's name:_____

Telephone number of student:_____

**Student's Email
address:**_____

Parents/legal guardian's name:_____

Telephone number of Parent/legal guardian:_____

Parent/legal guardian's email address:_____

1. List your **school activities**. Include any elected positions, special honors, awards and accomplishments from your high school career (class officer, plays, athletics, music, etc.).

2. List **extracurricular activities** and the years of participation, such as the 4-H, FFA, church community and service clubs. Indicate honors, awards and accomplishments.

3. Attached a signed letter of recommendation (to be completed by principal, guidance counselor, teacher or community leader) to this application.

I will be 16 or 17 at the time of the Washington Youth Tour (June 1- 5, 2026) and my parent(s)/guardian(s) are currently active customers of Valley TeleCom Group.

I have read and understand that my application and essay or video are to be submitted to Valley TeleCom Group no later than February 28, 2026 or I will not be considered for the Youth Tour program.

I understand that if I am selected to represent Valley TeleCom Group and, for some unforeseen reason, I am not able to attend the 2026 Youth Tour, I must notify Valley TeleCom Group immediately so that an alternate may make the trip to Washington D.C.

I authorize Valley TeleCom Group to use the above information along with photos of me for publicity purposes. I understand that all entries become the property of Valley TeleCom Group and may be used or reproduced in any manner without additional consent or compensation.

Student's Signature

Signature of parent/legal guardian