

DISCOVERING SOUTH KENTUCKY

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A once-in-a-lifetime experience

By Alex Hancock

I'm on my way to Washington, D.C. It's sinking in as we drive past the outskirts of my hometown, and I'm starting to relax after the rush of last-minute packing. I had no idea what to expect from this trip, and I wasn't too worried about it either. I planned on just going with the flow and making the most out of it. Looking back, I had no idea what an amazing trip this would be!

It wasn't long before our group from Somerset met up with the rest of our group from all over Kentucky, and I made friends instantly. We would all be close friends by the end of the trip.

First, we visited the homes of two of the greatest men in our nation's history, George Washington's Mount Vernon, and Thomas Jefferson's Monticello. There's an indescribable feeling standing in an old office where two of the greatest men in America's history literally made that history.

We had a scavenger hunt through the national mall and visited the iconic memorials. We've seen many pictures throughout our lives of the Washington Monument and the Lincoln Memorial, but nothing compares to seeing them in person. It was great to see some of the memorials that don't get as much attention, like the Korean War Veterans Memorial. Later that day, we visited the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, where



Honoring the brave: SKRECC Washington Youth Tour student Alex Hancock, center, participates in the wreath-laying ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. Photo: Tim Webb

we witnessed the changing of the guard, and where I was honored to participate in the wreath-laying ceremony.

The memorial that impacted me the most with its tragic beauty was the National 9/11 Pentagon Memorial. Visiting the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum was one of the most powerful experiences of my life. Reading about the Holocaust is one thing; seeing the graphic images of the horror of the holocaust is another. I couldn't speak for half an hour after leaving

the museum. What I experienced in the museum and what I learned can be summed in a quote from Holocaust survivor Abel Herzberg: "There were not six million Jews murdered; there was one murder, six million times."

The highlight of the trip was no doubt the U.S. Capitol. It was incredible to walk through possibly the most important building in our nation. We met with Kentucky Sen. Mitch McConnell on the steps of the Senate Building, and

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Alex Hancock is the son of SKRECC members James and Dora Hancock. Photo: Tim Webb

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we met with aides to Kentucky's House representatives. We learned so much from our time with them. And that's something you can't get as a typical D.C. tourist.

I'm so thankful for this opportunity given to us by my local electric cooperative, South Kentucky RECC, Kentucky Electric Cooperatives and the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association. I'm especially thankful for Mallory Wafzig, who put the trip together, our

group leader Alan Coffey and all the leaders who were there with us.

We learned a lot about our nation's electric cooperatives and the important role they play in our communities. I'm grateful to these organizations both for the opportunity to go on this once-in-a-lifetime trip to Washington, D.C., and for their service to our communities. Everyone who went on this trip will remember it for the rest of their lives.

Power in preparedness

We never know when to expect severe weather, but we know every single year we have storms that can turn severe quickly. Several of our rural communities are still recovering from damaging tornadoes that passed through during Memorial Day weekend earlier this year.

With severe weather always comes the possibility of a prolonged power outage or other emergency. Being prepared for that possibility means having enough food, water and other supplies to last at least a few days.

In conjunction with National Preparedness Month in September, South Kentucky RECC is urging our members to use the power of preparation as the fall thunderstorm and winter season approaches.

Even at a modest level, preparation can help reduce stress and anxiety and lessen the impact of an emergency event.

Take these steps recommended by the Federal Emergency Management Agency and South Kentucky RECC to be ready in the event of an emergency:

- Assemble a grab-and-go disaster kit. Include items like nonperishable food, water (1 gallon per person, per day), formula and diapers for babies, batteries, flashlights, prescription

medications, first-aid kit, battery-powered radio and phone chargers. Add supplies for your pets, too.

- Create a household evacuation plan.
- Plan for medically fragile family members. Refill prescriptions and have medicine on hand. Have an available cooler and ice for refrigerated medicines. Those reliant on in-home, electricity-dependent medical equipment should have a backup power option.
- Develop a plan for communicating with family and friends (via text, social media or messaging app).
- Microchip your pets and keep the contact information updated.
- Have extra cash available. During a power outage, electronic card readers and cash machines may not work.
- Store important documents (birth certificates, property deeds, etc.) in a safe place away from home (for example, a bank safe deposit box).
- Consider investing in a generator. Now, before you need it, is the time to buy.



Choose from a portable generator to keep a few lights on, a standby generator that will automatically switch on when it senses an outage or one that's powerful enough to light the whole house. Remember: It's critical that any generator be installed and used safely.

Visit South Kentucky RECC's Outage Center at www.skrecc.com/outage-center for more information on preparing for and coping with power outages, including tips for medically fragile patients, generators, storm safety and power restoration.

South Kentucky RECC celebrates a year of safety excellence

South Kentucky RECC is thrilled to announce that it has reached an impressive milestone: its team has worked more than 297,000 hours collectively over the past year with no lost-time accidents. This achievement reflects the unwavering commitment of the cooperative's team to maintaining a safe and healthy working environment. Every employee, from lineworkers to support staff, plays a vital role in fostering a culture of safety. Their relentless adherence to safety protocols,

participation in regular training sessions and vigilant attention to detail have been key factors in this success.

The remarkable accomplishment goes beyond just numbers; it underscores the cooperative's commitment to the well-being of its employees and the communities it serves. Safety is a cornerstone of its operations, and the cooperative continually invests in the latest safety equipment, comprehensive training programs and best practices to ensure the security of its workforce.



As the cooperative celebrates this significant milestone, it is more motivated than ever to uphold and enhance its safety standards, aiming for even greater achievements in the years to come.

Powering tradition

As fall sports kick off in Kentucky, South Kentucky RECC is proud to power the lights that shine on our young athletes. Football and soccer are cherished across our service area, bringing families, friends and neighbors together to cheer on our local teams. Rural Kentucky high schools have a long history of high performance in both popular outdoor sports.

All of us at South Kentucky RECC understand the importance of supporting local traditions and the impact they have on our community's spirit and unity. By providing dependable electricity, we help create a safe and enjoyable environment for students, athletes and fans. South Kentucky RECC is committed to being more than just a power provider; we're a dedicated partner in making sure our community's Friday night lights continue to shine brightly for years to come.

South Kentucky RECC is proud to power our local schools. We supply the electricity that lights up stadiums, scoreboards, concession stands, locker

rooms and parking lots. Like the teams we serve, your co-op is conditioned and ready for another great season of "Friday night lights."



South Kentucky RECC will be closed on Monday, September 2, in observance of Labor Day. To report an outage, please call (800) 264-5112 for dispatch.



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SKRECC Offices:

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McCreary County
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(606) 376-5997

Pulaski County
200 Electric Ave., Somerset, KY 42501
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2405 N. Main St., Jamestown, KY 42629
(270) 343-7500

Wayne County
780 N. Main St., Monticello, KY 42633
(606) 348-6771

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Visit www.skrecc.applicantpro.com/jobs/ to explore exciting career opportunities with the South Kentucky RECC Team.

South Kentucky RECC is an equal opportunity employer and provider.

Visit www.skrecc.com to pay your bill online, to visit our outage center, or for more information about the Co-op Connections Program.

To report an outage 24/7/365, please call your local office, (800) 264-5112, or set up your account to be able to text outages. Please do not report outages via social media.

Plug into South Kentucky RECC. Follow us on social media:



Be safe around electricity when moving **FARM EQUIPMENT**

With the arrival of harvest time, Kentucky's farmers are shifting into high gear as they move into their fields to bring in crops.

All that increased activity puts farmers and farm workers at greater risk.

Always look up and around before moving or raising equipment. A good rule of thumb is to stay at least 20 feet from all power lines and power poles.

Watch out for power poles, too. If you strike one, it may break, dropping a live line on your equipment.

Have a spotter on hand to ensure your safety when moving equipment near power lines.

If you're not completely sure that equipment will fit under a power line, find an alternate way to move it.

If you're in equipment that touches power lines, stay inside and call for help. If you have to escape, jump clear of the equipment. Keep both feet together and shuffle or hop at least 40 feet away.



WAYNE GARMON