

enchantment

The Voice of New Mexico's Rural Electric Cooperatives

**Celebrating 105 Years:
Wagon Mound
Bean Day**

August 2015

Sierra Electric Student to Represent New Mexico on Youth Leadership Council

Incoming Hot Springs High School senior, Felix Apodaca, was chosen to represent New Mexico on the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association's 2014-2016 Youth Leadership Council. Felix received the honor in Washington, D.C., during the Government-in-Action-Youth Tour, June 13-19, 2015.

Evelyn Vigil, Youth Tour coordinator for the New Mexico Rural Electric Cooperative Association, stated they start selecting the Youth Leadership Council (YLC) once a student's packet is received. They take into consideration a student's essay, GPA, programs and or sports they have participated during their high school career. Each individual is interviewed and is observed for leadership, social skills and how they address chaperones and their peers. Ms. Vigil stated they had a lot of leaders and very smart students in the group, and Felix had some pretty tough competition.

A total of 29 New Mexico students participated in this year's Youth Tour and 20 students applied for the YLC. The YLC was created by rural electric cooperatives, state-wides, and NRECA to provide an extension of youth activities available to states participating in the Youth Tour program. Each state is entitled to have one representative on the YLC. As New Mexico's Youth Leadership Council representative, Felix will return to Washington, D.C., for a leadership conference.

The YLC is designed to provide participants with stronger leadership skills, presentation skills and a broader understanding of the rural electric cooperatives. All YLC members attend the NRECA Youth



New Mexico YLC Delegate, Felix Apodaca.

Leadership Conference and the NRECA Annual Meeting. In addition, YLC members are selected from host states for NRECA Regional meetings to speak before the membership about their Youth Tour experiences. The NRECA Youth Leadership Conference is held each summer following the Youth Tour, which provides hands-on activities designed for promoting individual leadership development.

During the Youth Leadership Conference, participants select a spokesperson to address the membership of the NRECA Annual Meeting and the Youth Tour delegates the following summer. The YLC provides assistance to the NRECA staff during the Annual Meeting and attends educational seminars and participates in a variety of programs.

They have an opportunity to meet with many influential people, elected officials, NRECA's board of directors, the NRECA CEO and administrative staff. The NRECA Annual Meeting hosts over 13,000 rural electric members yearly and is held in a variety of major cities nationwide.

School Bus Safety for Your Kids

For millions of students nationwide, the school day begins and ends with a trip on a school bus. Unfortunately, many children are injured and several are killed each year in school bus incidents.

Although drivers of all vehicles are required to stop for a school bus when it is stopped to load or unload passengers, children should not rely on them to do so. The National Safety Council encourages parents to teach their children these rules for getting on and off the school bus.

Getting on the school bus

- When waiting for the bus, stay away from traffic.
- Do not stray into streets, alleys or private property.
- Line up away from the street or road as the school bus approaches.
- Wait until the bus has stopped and the door opens before stepping onto the roadway.
- Use the hand rail when stepping onto the bus.

Getting off the school bus

- If you have to cross the street in front of the bus, walk at least 10 feet ahead of the bus along the side of the road until you can turn around and see the driver.
- Make sure that the driver can see you.
- Wait for a signal from the driver before beginning to cross.
- When the driver signals, walk across the road, keeping an eye out for sudden traffic changes.
- Do not cross the center line of the road until the driver has signaled that it is safe for you to begin walking.
- Stay away from the wheels of the bus at all times.

Crossing the street

- Children should always stop at the curb or the edge of the road and look left, then right, and then left again before crossing. They should continue looking in this manner until they are safely across the street.

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Board Meeting

The board of trustees meets the third Friday of the month at 9:00 a.m. in the cooperative boardroom.



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