

2026 YOUTH TOUR INTERVIEW

BCEC Information and Potential Interview Questions

- BCEC was organized in **1938**
- BCEC serves **portions of five counties: Bailey, Castro, Cochran, Lamb and Parmer County**
- We have **2,946 miles of energized line, 174 miles of transmission line**
- BCEC has **7,933 meters**
- BCEC has **1,476 members**
- Our **Seven** Board of Directors are: Keith Hicks, Greg Welch, Jerry Nichols, Ronnie Altman, Ronnie Barrett, Larry Clawson and Keith Layton
- BCEC is **headquartered in Muleshoe, Texas** and has **one district office in Morton**
- The General Manager and CEO is David Marricle
- Name one of the Seven Cooperative Principles and explain what they mean:
 1. Voluntary and Open Membership
 2. Democratic Member Control
 3. Members' Economic Participation
 4. Autonomy and Independence
 5. Education, Training and Information
 6. Cooperation Among Cooperatives
 7. Concern for community
- Texas Electric Cooperative (TEC) is the state association that represents these individual co-ops by providing support, advocacy, and services. They were established in 1940, with 67 distribution and 9 generation/transmission members, serving 2 million homes and businesses. TEC coordinates and sponsors the Government-In-Action Youth Tour in Texas.
- NRECA is the national service organization that represents America's electric cooperatives. It is also a cooperative. It supports more than 900 consumer-owned, not-for-profit electric cooperatives across the country, which provide power to over 42 million people in rural areas. NRECA provides advocacy, education, and training to its members to help them serve their communities, and it also has an international division that helps bring electricity to developing countries. They are responsible for the national Youth Tour.

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- How was the Youth Tour started? President Lyndon B. Johnson, a Texas native and the 36th United States president, helped rural areas get electricity and inspired a youth leadership program sponsored by electric cooperatives. As part of their effort to improve members' lives, electric cooperatives followed Johnson's call in 1957 to send youths to Washington, D.C., to "actually see what the flag stands for and represents." Out of his remarks was born the Government-in Action Youth Tour, which is still going strong decades later, with more than 50,000 students having participated nationwide. The tour began in 1965 and has been held every year with the exception of the year COVID prevented travel.
- What are some other well-known businesses that are cooperatives besides electric cooperatives? REI, State Farm, Ocean Farm, Land 'O Lakes, Ace Hardware, True Value Hardware

General Questions that may be asked:

- Tell us about yourself.
- What education and career goals you have set for yourself?
- How would this opportunity help you achieve your life goals?
- Have you ever traveled to Washington, D.C. before?
- What do you like to do for fun?
- What are you most interested in seeing in Washington, D.C. and why?