

Tomorrow's leaders to take a tour

High school seniors selected for Bluebonnet-sponsored D.C. trip

By Lisa Ogle

A blood drive organizer who wants to become a nurse practitioner and a cheerleader who plans to pursue a career in family law will represent Bluebonnet Electric Cooperative during the 2018 Government-in-Action Youth Tour in Washington, D.C.

Madison Iselt, a senior at Lexington High School, and Gillian Nietsche, a senior at Giddings High School, were chosen in February. Roy Kruemcke Jr., also a senior at Giddings High, is the alternate who would join the tour if Iselt or Nietsche were unable to attend.

The two participants will tour the Texas Capitol and the Bullock Texas State History Museum in Austin, and visit historical sites in our nation's capital from June 6-15. They also each receive a \$1,000 scholarship after graduating from high school.

The two recipients and alternate were among nine finalists interviewed at Bluebonnet's headquarters in February. Recipients were selected by community leaders based on the interviews and essays in their applications about their congressional representatives, the three branches of government, what they would like to see in D.C. and their favorite nonprofit organizations.

Iselt, 18, of Lexington, has participated in Lexington FFA and coordinated American Red Cross blood drives the past two summers. She has already taken several college courses and plans to complete her prerequisites at Blinn College in College Station before applying to nursing schools. She wants to become a nurse practitioner, which was reinforced by her experience volunteering at St. David's Medical Center in Austin last summer.

"I want to be able to help people out and make a difference in their lives," Iselt said of her career choice. "I want to have some authority and be able to prescribe medications to people, and that is exactly what a nurse practitioner can do."

She is pursuing Basic Emergency Medical Technician certification and is involved in the Student Health Advisory Committee and Health Occupations Students of America.

Iselt looks forward to seeing the Lincoln



From left, Madison Iselt, a senior at Lexington High School, and Gillian Nietsche, a senior at Giddings High School, will travel to the nation's capital in June for the youth tour. (Sarah Beal photo) Roy Kruemcke Jr., also a senior at Giddings High, is the alternate. (Family photo)

posters, stage a mock car crash involving an intoxicated driver and make a short film about it that is shown to the student body, she said.

Like Iselt, Nietsche is most looking forward to seeing the Lincoln Memorial. "This memorial is a reminder that we must work hard for the things we want in life and to never give up on our dreams," she said in her essay.

Kruemcke, 17, of Giddings, plays trumpet in his school band and also is a member of the band at Martin Luther Lutheran Church in Giddings. He

has placed in Computer Science UIL at the district and regional levels and serves as president of Christ First. He will study engineering and computer science at Texas A&M University and plans to enroll in the Air Force after college.

Iselt and Nietsche will join 147 other young people representing other Texas electric co-ops and more than 1,500 teens from around the country in the nation's capital, where they will see lawmakers in action, tour historical sites, and attend events hosted by the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, an organization that represents more than 900 electric cooperatives.

For more information, visit bluebonnet.coop. Click on Community, then Scholarships. Look for 2019 applications in the fall. ■