



Shiloh Skillen-Robison Returns from DC



Hysham High School student Shiloh Skillen-Robison returned home recently after spending four days in our nation's capital. The all-expense-paid trip to DC was part of the Foundation for Rural Service (FRS) Youth Tour Essay Contest sponsored by Range Telephone Cooperative, Inc. Shiloh is a junior at Hysham High School and the daughter of Wayne and Glenda Robison of Hysham.

This year marks the 18th year that the Cooperative has sponsored a high school junior from within its service area to attend the Youth Tour. From May 31st – June 4th, Shiloh joined over 100 other high school students from rural communities throughout the U.S. to learn about the role of telecommunications in rural America.

Youth Tour participants received a first-hand glimpse at how the legislative and regulatory decisions made in Washington, DC affect their local service providers and how they operate in their own hometowns. The trip featured a comprehensive overview of the telecommunications industry, including careers in telecom as well as the critical role that telecommunications plays in rural America.

“We hope that by providing our youth with telecommunications services comparable to those found in urban areas, as well as exposing them to cultural and educational opportunities such as the FRS Youth Tour, our youth will remain in and become active members in their rural communities,” said Rob Stephens, CEO/General Manager of Range Telephone Cooperative, Inc. “Range Telephone is dedicated to all of the exchanges that it serves and sponsoring this trip for local students is just one way of expressing our commitment. We hope that you look to us not only as your telecommunications provider, but also as a strong supporter of your communities.”

In addition to the educational component of this trip, Youth Tour participants were given the opportunity to visit some of the nation's most historic sites, including the Vietnam, Korean and World War II Memorials, the Supreme Court, the Smithsonian Museums, Arlington National Cemetery and the Lincoln and Jefferson Memorials, and many others.

Shiloh will be presenting a slideshow of her experience in DC to the Range Board of Trustees at an upcoming board meeting.

To enter the contest, students must write an essay on the following topic, "**How important are Range Telephone's services to you, your family and your community?**" The essay should be typed, double-spaced, and no less than 400 words in length. Visit Youth Tour under the Community Involvement section on www.rangetel.coop for more information or call 1-800-92-RANGE.