

2012 West Florida Electric Cooperative Youth Tour Program Study Guide



1. *What is the name of your local electric cooperative?*
West Florida Electric Cooperative Association, Inc.
2. *What is West Florida Electric Cooperative Association, Inc.?*
It is a non-profit corporation that was incorporated in 1937 under the laws of Florida for the purpose of providing electric service to its members at cost.
3. *How are trustees selected to serve on the cooperative's board?* There are nine (9) trustees. They are voted on and elected by the members. Three (3) trustees are elected each year for a three-year term. Each trustee is from a different district to assure that every area is represented.
4. *Who is the trustee from your district or area?*
5. *Who is the current Chairman of the cooperative's Board of Trustees?*
Ellis Nichols
6. *Who is the President & CEO of West Florida Electric Cooperative and what are his responsibilities?* Bill Rimes, he is selected by the Board of Trustees to oversee the day to day operations of the cooperative within the policies established by the board.
7. *How many meters does the cooperative serve?* Approximately 28,000 meters
8. *How many miles of line does the cooperative have?* Approximately 4,525 miles
9. *True or False. Rural electric cooperatives are non-profit organizations.* True - unlike investor-owned utilities (IOUs) who return a profit to their stockholders.
10. *What energy sources are used to generate the electricity your cooperative uses?*
coal, natural gas, hydro, compressed air and methane gas
11. *What is the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA)?*
A service organization representing more than 1,000 rural electric systems in 46 states. NRECA is not supported by government funds nor is it an agency of the federal government.

12. *Why was REA and the Rural Electrification program necessary?* Only ten percent (10%) of farms in this country had electric service by 1935. Most rural areas had been bypassed by electric companies which were either unable or unwilling to build lines into territory that was economically poor, thinly populated or where the terrain was difficult. Where farmers could get electricity, they were generally required to pay the construction cost of extending the lines which became company property and then had to pay for service.
13. *When was the REA established?* On May 11, 1935, President Roosevelt signed Executive Order 7037 establishing the Rural Electrification Administration (REA).
14. *What is RUS?* The Rural Utilities Service (RUS) is the U.S. Department of Agriculture agency that continues the former Rural Electrification Administration's (REA's) mission of assisting rural utilities in providing electricity. However, the RUS's role is broader, encompassing rural infrastructure such as water and telecommunications.
15. *How is the Administrator of Rural Utilities Service (RUS) appointed?* By the President and confirmed by the U.S. Senate
16. *How many people do the nearly 1,000 members of NRECA provide electricity to?* 25 million people
17. *What is a cooperative?* A business enterprise jointly owned and equally controlled by those who use it. It is a form of business more interested in service to people than making money, though it must, of course, take in money to pay its way.
18. *How is a cooperative non-profit?* After all expenses are paid at the end of the year, any excess revenue (margins) is assigned on the cooperative books to patrons who used the service on a pro-rated basis. The cooperative retains these funds, called Capital Credits, to use as operating funds. As the funds increase to the point that the cooperative has more than is needed for operating funds, portions of these Capital Credits are refunded to the members on a first in - first out (FIFO) basis. For example, in 1998, we refunded Capital Credits accrued in 1974, which means we are presently on a 24-year cycle.
19. *Do cooperatives pay taxes?* Yes, rural electric cooperatives pay taxes on the same basis as other businesses. The only tax cooperatives do not pay is income tax. There is no profit, so there is no income tax to pay.
20. *How many rural electric cooperatives are there?* The Rural Electrification Administration lists slightly more than 1,000 electric cooperatives of all types.
21. *What is a distribution cooperative?* An electric cooperative that purchases wholesale power and delivers it to its members.

22. *What is a G&T?* Generation and transmission cooperatives are power supply cooperatives owned by a group of distribution cooperatives. G&Ts generate power or purchase it from public or investor-owned utilities or both.
23. *What is PowerSouth?* Formerly, Alabama Electric Cooperative, PowerSouth, is a generation and transmission cooperative (G&T) with headquarters in Andalusia, Alabama. They provide electricity to sixteen (16) distribution cooperatives in Alabama and Northwest Florida (including West Florida Electric), four municipalities and two industrial mills. West Florida Electric is a member-owner of PowerSouth just as those who use our services are member-owners of WFEC.
21. *What is the Florida Electric Cooperative Association (FECA)?* A state-wide service organization created by the Florida Electric Cooperatives to furnish those services to the cooperatives that could not be economically provided by each individual cooperative. They handle legislative affairs, job training and safety, insurance, credit union, publications, and many more services to Florida cooperatives, including coordinating the Washington Youth Tour Program.
22. *What is Touchstone Energy®?* Touchstone Energy® is a nationwide partnership of cooperative energy providers. As a Touchstone Energy® cooperative, co-ops can pool their resources, offer better services, and participate in nationwide commitment to be the best energy providers possible. Touchstone Energy® partners are locally owned, locally based energy cooperatives that are more concerned with people than with profits.

Score Guide:

Communication Skills	25 points
Personality	25 points
Knowledge of Subject	25 points
Poise/Appearance	15 points
Community Service	10 points

Board of Trustees Study Guide

TRUSTEE DISTRICTS *(as taken from WFEC Bylaws):*

The territory served or to be served by the cooperative shall be divided into nine (9) districts, and each district shall be represented by one trustee. The original nine (9) district shall be as follows:

District 1 - That part of Calhoun County served by the cooperative.

Trustee - Ellis Nichols

District 2 - That part of Jackson County lying east of the Chipola River and between the north line of Calhoun County and the south line of Township 6 North.

Trustee - Eugene Alford

District 3 - That part of Jackson County lying east of Marshall Creek, north of the south line of Township 6 North.

Trustee - John Patrick

District 4 - That part of Jackson County lying west of Marshall Creek, west of the Chipola River, north of U.S. Hwy. 90 and east of Holmes Creek.

Trustee - Charles Holman

District 5 - That part of Jackson County south of U.S. Hwy. 90 and west of the Chipola River.

Trustee - A.C. Miles

District 6 - That part of Washington County served by the cooperative.

Trustee - George Clayton Owens

District 7 - That part of Holmes County lying east of State Road 79 from the south boundary of Holmes County to the junction of State Road 79 and State Road 177 and that portion of Holmes County lying east of State Road 177.

Trustee - Randy Bush

District 8 - That portion of Holmes County lying west of State Road 79, from the junction of State Road 177 and State Road 79 to the south county line of Holmes County and east of the Choctawhatchee River.

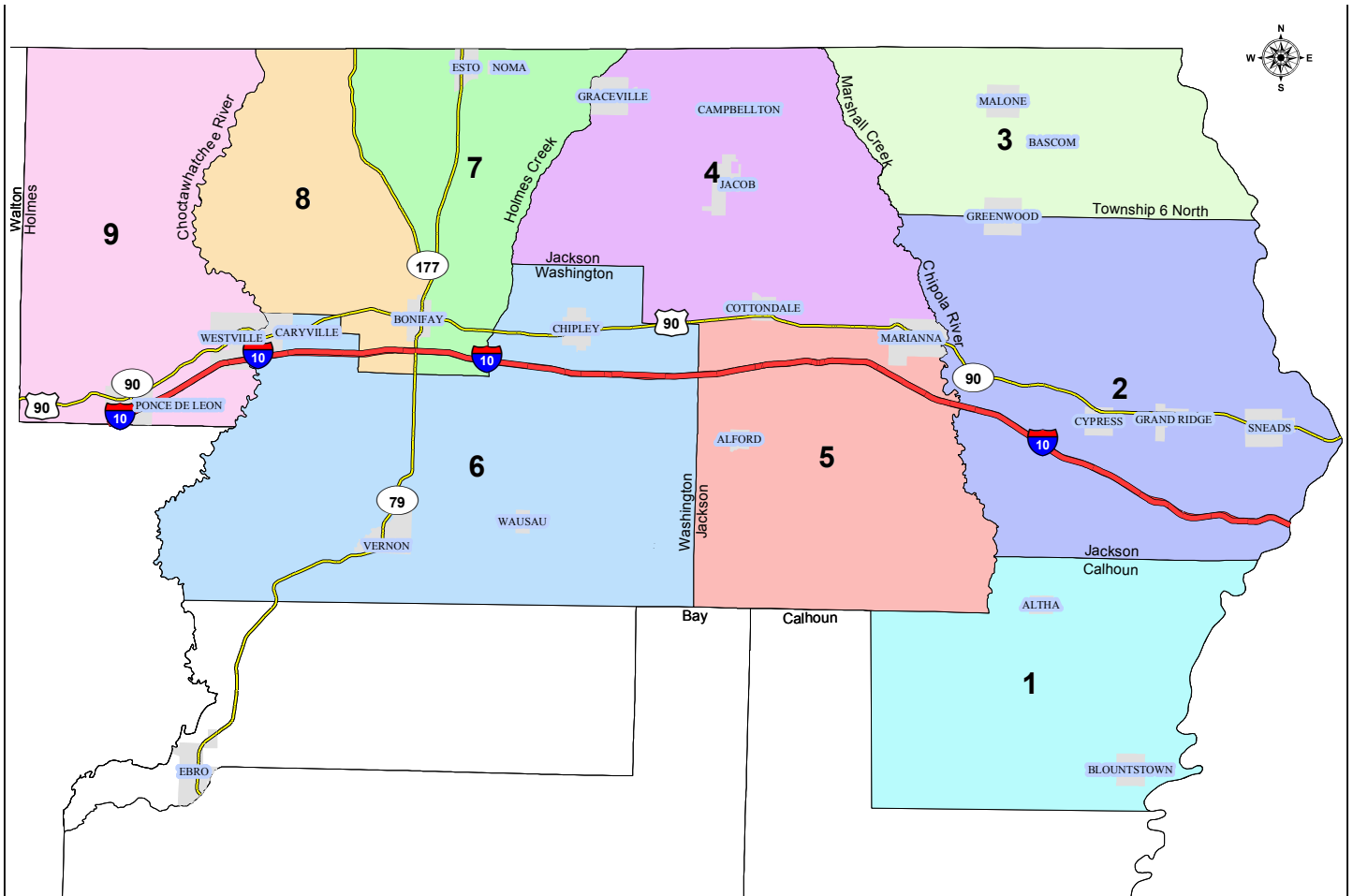
Trustee - Joe Rone

District 9 - That part of Holmes County lying west of the Choctawhatchee River.

Trustee - Myron Hudson

Please call if you have a question regarding your Trustee.

Board of Trustees - District Map Study Guide



District 1 - Ellis Nichols

District 2 - Eugene Alford

District 3 - John Patrick

District 4 - Charles Holman

District 5 - A.C. Miles

District 6 - George Clayton Owens

District 7 - Randy Bush

District 8 - Joe Rone

District 9 - Myron Hudson