

A TOUR TALE: Washington Trip Inspires Career Choice

“Good morning! Thanks for joining us.”

It's 4 a.m. and Adam Hammond is already nearly three hours into his day – and loving every minute of it.

While most are still warm and snug in bed, he's beginning a four-hour stint as the morning news anchor at Nashville's News Channel 5. Hammond calls television broadcasting his dream job, and he credits Walton EMC and the Washington Youth Tour (WYT) with helping him get there.

Hammond was a 16-year-old sophomore at Oconee County High School when he decided to compete to represent Walton EMC as a 2002 WYT delegate.

“I grew up knowing how important the EMCs are, and why members need to participate,” Hammond said. “My grandmother still attends the annual meeting every year.”

The annual youth leadership development opportunity provides teens an up-close look at the inner workings of state and federal governments.

“I always had an interest in politics, and that grew into so much more because of the youth tour,” he said. “It exposed me to so many things you can't know about until you experience Washington the way we did.”

The trip also includes one-on-one meetings with congressional delegates, visits to national monuments and meeting other tour delegates from across the nation.

“My favorite thing was being able to meet and talk to kids who were like me,” he said. “I'm still in touch with many of the Georgia people I met on that trip.”

It was the timing of the tour – the first to occur after the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001 – that cemented Hammond's career path.

“We saw the Pentagon being rebuilt and heard speakers who were there when it was attacked,” he recalled. “I knew from that time that I wanted to help people...I thought broadcasting and journalism could be the way.”

He encourages eligible high school students to seize the opportunity to compete to be a 2020 WYT delegate.

“It's an experience that can stay with you your whole life,” he said. “When I went, I had no idea I'd still be talking about it 17 years later.”

SEE A VIDEO MESSAGE FROM ADAM
bit.ly/wemc_2020yt



As part of his Washington Youth Tour experience, Walton EMC former delegate Adam Hammond, right, met with Georgia Senator Johnny Isakson and other government leaders.



Former Washington Youth Tour delegate for Walton EMC, Adam Hammond, now helps Tennesseans rise and shine every weekday as the morning newscaster at a Nashville television station.

APPLY NOW!

Apply now to be one of four delegates who win an all-expense paid trip to Washington, D.C. as a participant in the 2020 Washington Youth Tour.

TO QUALIFY:

- Be a high school sophomore or junior.
- Live or attend a school in the WEMC service area.
- Have your parent's permission to enter.
- Commit to making the trip on June 18–25 if you win.

FOLLOW THESE STEPS:

1. Complete and send the entry form, parent's authorization and student commitment. Walton EMC must receive this by **5 p.m., Friday, Feb. 7.**
2. You'll get study material in the mail.
3. Study!
4. Take a written test on Monday, March 2 on the study material.
5. The eight contestants scoring the highest on the written test will advance to a short interview.
6. Judges choose four winners and two alternates.

TO GET AN ENTRY FORM:

- Go to waltonemc.com
- Email jbroun@waltonemc.com
- Call 770-266-2572

LEARN MORE

See videos here! bit.ly/wyt_georgia



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JAN 2020

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WALTON EMC GRANTS
TO SCHOOLS TOTAL

\$360,338

The first week in December was a happy one for many local teachers.

In our fourth year of School EmPOWERment Grants, your cooperative handed out checks totaling \$360,338 that will enhance the instructional programs of schools in our service area.

But don't worry; your power bill isn't going up because of it.

The money comes from unclaimed refunds. After exhausting all attempts to find the rightful owners, Georgia law allows the money to be used for things like education.

This year's disbursements bring the all-time grant total to more than \$1.4 million. See all of the recipients inside.

2019 FAST FACTS

AMOUNT OF GRANTS \$360,338

AVERAGE GRANT \$4,449

NUMBER OF GRANTS 81

SCHOOLS
RECEIVING GRANTS 56

TOTAL SINCE
PROGRAM'S START \$1,401,810

SOURCE OF MONEY
UNCLAIMED
REFUNDS



Carver Middle School



WALTON EMC GRANTS

—continued from front

Barrow County

CENTER FOR INNOVATIVE TEACHING
\$2,750 Ashley Bailey, AIMing for One to One

Clarke County

HILSMAN MIDDLE
\$6,718 Audrey Hughes, Share the Magic of Reading; Fabian Jones, PBIS Pride!

Gwinnett County

ANDERSON-LIVSEY ELEMENTARY
\$3,549 Debbie May, Exploring the World Through Books

ARCADO ELEMENTARY
\$5,895 Jamie Garcia-Caycho, Readers Today, Leaders Tomorrow

BRITT ELEMENTARY
\$8,435 Kay Brickley, Classroom Libraries

HEAD ELEMENTARY
\$13,515 Shann Griffith, Multi-Million Word Club

KNIGHT ELEMENTARY
\$11,500 Christine Christopher, Tower Gardens; Rosi Beckman, Jennifer Brown, Blended Learning Needs

MCCONNELL MIDDLE
\$4,352 Falaunda Cox, Lynda's Legacy; Angel Parks, Jennifer Akin, Sports, Fitness and Fun!

PARKVIEW HIGH
\$5,000 Camelia Calvert, VEX Robotics Expansion

PARTEE ELEMENTARY
\$5,000 Lisa Mills, Through Their Eyes



Center for Innovative Learning

CENTERVILLE ELEMENTARY
\$3,544 Marla Parish, Intervention Reading/Math Technology Lab

COOPER ELEMENTARY
\$4,000 Aimee Litt, Community of Readers

FIVE FORKS MIDDLE
\$4,100 Andrew Whatley, Collaborative, Project-based Learning

GRAYSON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
\$4,905 Christi Umans, Traci Green, Donna Ward, Art/Science STEAM Project

GRAYSON HIGH
\$1,165 Joy Thompson, Operation Grayson Way

GWINN OAKS ELEMENTARY
\$12,407 Sabine Stoffle, Integrating Technology; Sue Eason, Leigh Blakley, Guided Reading Books

PHARR ELEMENTARY
\$7,288 Kathleen Navin, Creating a Collaborative Environment

ROSEBUD ELEMENTARY
\$10,400 Brandi Patterson, Operation Rising Technology Integration Initiative

SHILOH ELEMENTARY
\$6,000 Thomas Trippany, Literacy in the Classroom

SHILOH HIGH
\$5,412 Minnie Sharp, Vocational and Functional Academics; Ashley Rogers, Classroom on the Go!

SHILOH MIDDLE
\$7,950 Angela Banks-Spain, Classroom Libraries

Social Circle Primary School



STARLING ELEMENTARY
\$4,880 Ikwo Poindexter, Tools for 21st Century

TRICKUM MIDDLE
\$3,567 Jennifer Killian, Micro: Bit Accessories; Jess Wells, Analog Mixing Board; Lindsey Theirs, Informational Text: Hidden Figures

TRIP ELEMENTARY
\$9,531 Mackie Miley, Chromed Out Fourth Grade; Debbie Patrick, Full STEAM Ahead with 3D Printing; Vanita McGough, Inquisitive Learning Through Robotics

Morgan County

MORGAN COUNTY PRIMARY
\$4,949 Jennifer Haynes, Lego We Do 2.0 Robotics

MORGAN COUNTY ELEMENTARY
\$6,000 Katherine Edwards, Strive for Five Summer Reading; Angela Watson, Increasing Success Through Sensory Integration

MORGAN COUNTY MIDDLE
\$5,655 Karisa Seymour, Band Instruments; Brittany Murphy, Amanda Hartley, Morgan County Farm-to-School

MORGAN COUNTY HIGH
\$7,600 Brian Johnson, Technology Student Association Electrothon; Bob Brunson, Weight Room Improvements

Oconee County

ATHENS ACADEMY
\$3,480 Causey Cato, Fostering Creativity, Collaboration and Inquiry

COLHAM FERRY ELEMENTARY
\$2,500 Amy Nix, Outdoor Classroom Learning

DOVE CREEK ELEMENTARY
\$1,335 Tiffany Pilgrim, Julie McCullers, Unbox the Magic of STEM Bins; Joanna Stanczek, SnapWords for Students

Youth Elementary School

MALCOM BRIDGE ELEMENTARY
\$7,600 Jennifer Haygood, Empowering Students Through Leveled Reading; Cindy Rose, iPads Help Put the "T" in STEM

MALCOM BRIDGE MIDDLE
\$3,324 Julie Daniel, Refugees: Past and Present; Kathryn Elise Barnett, Eighth Grade Bibliophiles

NORTH OCONEE HIGH
\$31,995 Jade Paustian, Breakout EDU; Tim Griffeth, Animal Science Facility Enhancement; Clay McElheny, Ready, Set, STEM!

OCONEE COUNTY ELEMENTARY
\$1,505 Wendi Pitts, Leveled Literacy

OCONEE COUNTY MIDDLE
\$9,000 Candace Scoggins, STEMming Students' Interest

OCONEE COUNTY PRIMARY
\$3,849 April Reed, Growth Mindset, STEM and Character Development; Paulette Moon, Susan Willis, De-Coding 21st Century Skills

PRINCE AVENUE CHRISTIAN
\$4,200 Ginger Robinson, Shade Structures

ROCKY BRANCH ELEMENTARY
\$5,719 Joshua Luke, Music is Instrumental; Stephanie Dickson, Working With Our Hands; Christina Crowe, Heather Rutherford, Outdoor Learning Space

Walton County

ATHA ROAD ELEMENTARY
\$6,080 Haley Wilcox, High Interest Readers

BAY CREEK ELEMENTARY
\$4,000 Audra Knoll, Learning with Technology

CARVER MIDDLE
\$20,000 Timothy Holman, Livestock Barn

HARMONY ELEMENTARY
\$7,876 Kathleen Tarbutton, Aspiring Performers Want to be Heard

LOGANVILLE ELEMENTARY
\$6,750 Buffie Heard, Building Inquiring Scientists

LOGANVILLE HIGH
\$7,980 June Reid, Coffee Shop and Cheer Squad; Carrin Meadows, Science Equipment

MONROE AREA HIGH SCHOOL
\$4,697 Jess Bush, Teaching STEM Through Robotics

MONROE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
\$6,899 Zeester Swint, Think Lab

SHARON ELEMENTARY
\$6,899 Lori Perry, Think Lab

SOCIAL CIRCLE PRIMARY
\$3,174 Brandie Owens, Google Jamboard

SOCIAL CIRCLE MIDDLE
\$6,380 Shelby Casey, Character Education with Wonder; Candice Snowden, CBI Classroom Upgrade

SOCIAL CIRCLE HIGH
\$4,859 Brenda Rushing, Up, Up and Away!; Brad Callahan, VR Goggles for Science

VICTORY BAPTIST SCHOOL
\$11,200 Cory Lawrence, Classroom Projectors

WALKER PARK ELEMENTARY
\$1,020 Amanda Martin, SOARing Through Standards

WALNUT GROVE ELEMENTARY
\$4,000 Lucy Townley, Improving Literacy

WALNUT GROVE HIGH
\$5,212 April Bentley-Amos, DNA Investigation Station Hilery Wilson, All Hands On Deck for Science

YOUTH ELEMENTARY
\$2,738 Jarrod Tyler, Ukuleles and Storage Cart

