

Sylandi Brown - Video Script

Hi there! My name is Sylandi Brown, and I serve as the Marketing & Communications Specialist for Middle Georgia EMC. We are a part of a network of more than 900 electric cooperatives in the United States – 41 of those in the state of Georgia – that are all uniquely built and led by the communities we serve.

Electric cooperatives, including Middle Georgia EMC, brought electricity to rural areas when for-profit electric companies deemed the effort too costly. Today, we demonstrate the cooperative difference by powering our communities not only as a local energy provider, but as a key agent in community and economic development to support the people and businesses that make up who we are.

Five years ago, Middle Georgia EMC sponsored me to attend the Washington Youth Tour – a nationwide all-expense-paid week-long youth leadership program that brings 1,800 high school juniors and seniors to our nation's capital each summer. From the experience, I grew as a leader and became an advocate for programs like Co-ops Vote that emphasize the vital role co-ops play in encouraging rural voter turnout and engaging political candidates on the issues that matter in our communities. While Youth Tour was founded by electric cooperatives more than 50 years ago, it still has such a profound impact and continuously informs and shapes who I am today.

It is this very sentiment and idea that equally embodies what the cooperative identity is – deeply rooted, and continuously relevant. For as time changes elements of the world we live, it only strengthens and reinforces the foundational principles of who we are. It is up to us to stay at the forefront of the issues affecting our communities each day, using our light that shall never burn out, to pave the way for cooperatives around the globe to build better communities and a better world.