



Connect Con student rides in a bucket truck.

# CONNECT CON

## YHS student Elizabeth Elsen selected to attend

In a normal year, B-Y Electric has two opportunities for local high school students to apply for summer travel opportunities planned by South Dakota Rural Electric Association (SDREA).

These opportunities are Youth Tour in Washington DC to learn about the political process and Youth Excursion in Bismarck ND to learn about the energy that powers their daily lives.

Unfortunately, 2021 was still not a normal year for our youth opportunities. Instead of their usual trips, SDREA planned Connect Con: A Youth Leadership Experience.

Connect Con entailed an all-expenses paid trip to the Black Hills. Students stayed on Black Hills State University in Spearfish from July 26-29.

The students toured the BHSU campus, Butte Electric Cooperative, Spearfish Hydro Electric Plant, and the D.C. Booth Historic Fish Hatchery.

Students heard from speakers on topics including Energy Careers and Youth Leadership Opportunities

and Engagement. To learn about the political process, the students met South Dakota Representative Scyller Borglum and United States Representative Dusty Johnson over Zoom.

The students spent their free time doing fun activities like visiting the Spearfish Rec and Aquatics Center and group activities in the BHSU dorm.

Bon Homme Yankton Electric selected Elizabeth Elsen of Yankton High School to attend Connect Con. Elizabeth's parents are Jim and Mary Elsen.

Elizabeth will be a senior at Yankton High School this fall, and she is interested in pursuing a degree in Industrial Engineering after high school.

Elizabeth is involved in Science Olympiad, Book Club, Cross Country, Track and Field, National Honor Society, and Yankton Area Summer Band. She volunteers at the Yankton Public Library and Yankton Area Banquet. She won first place at the USD Math Contest, and she tutors for Math Is Fun.

Elizabeth had a great time on the

trip despite the hot weather. The temperature hovered around 100° F the entire trip! Her favorite part of the trip was the D.C. Booth Historic Fish Hatchery tour.



Elizabeth Elsen (far right)



Connect Con Students meeting Dusty Johnson over Zoom.