

Malecha selected Youth Tour delegate

Ashley Malecha of Rural Dundas has been awarded an all-expense paid trip to the Washington, D.C. 2010 Youth Tour, June 12-17.

Ashley, the daughter of Greg and Renee Malecha, was selected from a panel of judges who evaluated two entries this year.

The judges evaluated the applicants responses to two essay questions: the first was on why the applicant wished to be Steele-Waseca's delegate for the Youth Tour; the second asked the applicants what commitment to community meant to them.

"Being active in your community puts you in a leadership role and you do what you can to make your community successful," stated Ashley in her essay. "In the end you are not looking for anything in return, you're doing it because you want to."

The applications were also evaluated for completeness, composition, neatness, ability to communicate, and participation in school and community activities.

The tour is coordinated through the Minnesota Rural Electric Association (MREA), with participating cooperatives sponsoring a member student to travel to Washington, D.C. High school sophomores or juniors with parents or guardians who are Steele-Waseca members are eligible to participate.

During her visit, Ashley will be joining other delegates from Minnesota and across the nation. She'll learn about the rural electric program, meet with members of Minnesota's congressional delegation, and tour historical sites in and



Ashley Malecha
2010 Steele-Waseca
Youth Tour delegate

around our nation's capital.

Ashley is presently completing her junior year at Northfield High School. She is a member of the National Honor Society; Youth Teaching Youth, where she and a partner teach second and fourth graders about the affects of drugs, alcohol, peer pressure and bullying; high school tennis and an after-school tennis program in one of the elementary schools; and R.A.L.I.E. (Raider Activity Leaders Improving Enthusiasm) involving game nights, pep-fests and other activities at the school.

She is active in her church with Children's Church for preschoolers, small group leader for the church's youth group, and Vacation Bible School.

Ashley is involved in her community's 4-H program. As an ambassador, she has been involved with many activities from day camps for kids, handing out ribbons at the Rice County Fair and participating in parades to promote 4-H. Her 4-H projects shown at the fair have been in the areas of photography, sewing, arts and crafts, and performing arts.

Ashley's family are dairy farmers and she has appreciated the experience. "It has taught me many lessons like responsibility. I've learned that by working together you can get more accomplished in less time. There are so many things that need to be done on a farm to make it a successful business." She added, "I can do just about every chore on the farm now from feeding to milking. I love living on the farm, but it comes with many responsibilities."

Steele-Waseca wishes to thank this year's applicants and congratulate Ashley for being selected to represent the co-op in Washington, D.C. Ashley will be recognized by Steele-Waseca during this year's annual meeting. 