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PRESS RELEASE

Blackfoot offers Scholarships to Local Students

February, 2004 Missoula, Mont – Blackfoot Telephone Cooperative will once again send two local high school juniors to Washington D.C. The 10th Annual Foundation for Rural Service Youth Tour is just around the corner and Blackfoot will send two students to represent Western Montana.

Students will gain a first-hand look at the telecommunications industry, and the legislative and governmental processes by visiting Congress, the Federal Communications Commission and other government agencies. Participants will also tour famous landmarks such as the Washington Monument, Smithsonian Institution, Lincoln Memorial, US Capitol, Arlington National Cemetery, Washington Cathedral and the Supreme Court. Lots of fun is also planned since there are one-hundred students attending from across the country.

The scholarship is an all expense paid trip with the Youth Tour starting on June 5th and ending on June 9th. Interested high-school juniors, currently living in a Blackfoot exchange need to complete the following requirements and mail them to Blackfoot Telephone Cooperative, Attention: Mary Kelly, 1221 N. Russell, Missoula, MT 59808.

- A typed one-page essay explaining why you are interested in participating in the Youth Tour.
- Two letters of recommendation, one from a teacher and one from a personal family friend.
- A letter of authorization from parents or legal guardian.
- All entries must be received by March 15, 2004.

Blackfoot Scholarships Available Blackfoot will again present educational scholarships in the year 2004! Application forms are now available through the high school guidance counselors at our local high schools. The scholarships are available for graduating high school seniors or students of a college, university or technical school continuing his or her education. Applications will be accepted from students who meet the following criteria:

- The applicant must be served by Blackfoot Telephone Cooperative at their parent's or their own principal residence.
- The applicants must use the scholarship to attend an accredited vocational school, technical school, college or university.
- The application must include a current transcript, a personal letter of application and two letters of recommendation. One recommendation letter should be from a teacher and one from a member of the local community.

To be considered, applications must be completed in full, have no attachments other than the information requested, and must be received NO LATER THAN APRIL 9, 2004. Send applications to Blackfoot Telephone Cooperative, Scholarship Committee, 1221 N. Russell, Missoula, MT 59808.

About Blackfoot Telecommunications Group

Named after the Blackfoot River running through much of the territory it serves, the Blackfoot (Blackfoot) Telecommunications Group was originally established in 1954 as Blackfoot Telephone Cooperative. Blackfoot offers state-of-the-art telecommunications, Internet and data solutions to customers in Missoula and throughout Montana and Idaho. Headquartered in Missoula, Montana, Blackfoot employs more than 165 Montanans. Blackfoot can be reached at 406-541-5000 or through its web site at <http://www.blackfoot.com>.

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