

Iowa's electric cooperatives send 38 students to D.C. for a week of leadership development

Thirty-eight high school students representing Iowa's locally owned electric cooperatives traveled to Washington, D.C., from June 14-20 and joined more than 1,900 other students from across the nation for the 2019 Electric Cooperative Youth Tour. Iowa's electric cooperatives were the first ones to send students to Washington, D.C., back in 1958; this year marks the 61st anniversary of the journey.



(Left to right) Tessa Warnke and Jadynd Jondle, Prairie Energy Cooperative's Youth Tour attendees.

“The Youth Tour is the highlight of the summer for many students, and we're proud to send 38 of Iowa's best and brightest to our nation's capital this year to participate,” said Chuck Soderberg, executive vice president of the Iowa Association of Electric Cooperatives. “These students gained a first-hand understanding of the legislative process and made connections with other student leaders from across the country that will last a lifetime. We look forward to continuing the Youth Tour tradition for years to come.”

Tessa Warnke, daughter of Craig and Katy Warnke of Clarion, along with Jadynd Jondle, daughter of Jodi and Darren Johnson of Clarion were chosen to attend the Youth Tour this year. Both girls will be juniors at Clarion-Goldfield-Dows high school in the fall.

Students on the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour participated in leader-



(Left to right) Tessa Warnke and Jadynd Jondle thank Prairie Energy Cooperative for their Youth Tour experience.

ship training, engaged in one-on-one conversations with elected officials, jump started their national peer network, learned about electric cooperatives and toured the monuments and museums of Washington, D.C.

Students apply and are selected for this program by their local electric cooperative. Nationally, nearly 50,000 students have participated in this program over the decades. To learn more about the Youth Tour, visit www.youthtour.coop.



Have you seen this truck?

Prairie Energy recently partnered with MiTech, one of our authorized contractors assisting in pole inspections. If you see them near your property don't worry, they're with us! Give them a wave when you see them.

Stay back and stay safe

Working with electricity can be a dangerous job, especially for lineworkers. *USA Today* lists line repairers and installers among the most dangerous jobs in the U.S. That's why for your cooperative, safety is the priority.

Our mission is to provide safe, reliable and affordable energy to you, our members. We strive to deliver affordable and reliable electricity to you, but equally important, we want our employees to return home safely to their loved ones. This requires ongoing focus, dedication, vigilance—and your help!

Distractions can be deadly

If a lineworker is on or near your property during a power outage, please allow them ample room to work. These small accommodations help protect our crews—and you.

If you have a dog, try to keep it indoors while lineworkers are on or near your property. While most dogs are friendly, some are defensive of their territory. Our crews work best without a pet “supervising.”

We recognize that for your family's safety, you want to make sure only authorized workers are on or near your property. You will recognize our employees by their logo'd shirts and the service trucks with our name and logo on them.

Move over and slow down

In addition to giving lineworkers some space while they are near your property, we also ask that you move over and slow down when approaching a utility vehicle on the side of the road. This is an extra barrier of safety to help those who help us.

7,200 VOLT LINES
16 YEARS ON THE JOB
RESTORING POWER TO 500 MEMBERS

BUT RIGHT NOW IT'S YOU I'M WORRIED ABOUT.

HIS JOB IS DANGEROUS ENOUGH.
When you see utility crews at work, slow down and move over. You have the power to protect a life.

MOVE OVER SLOW DOWN

Going the Extra Mile

Electric cooperatives maintain more miles of power lines per consumer than other types of electric utilities. Even though they serve fewer consumers and acquire less revenue, electric co-ops always go the extra mile to power the communities they serve.



Electric Co-ops



Consumers served per mile: **8**
Revenue: **\$19,000**

Other Electric Utilities



Consumers served per mile: **32**
Revenue: **\$79,000**

Sources: EIA, 2017 data. Includes revenue and consumer averages per mile of line.

Save with rebates



Your Touchstone Energy cooperative is here to help you save with rebates.

Purchasing an Energy Star appliance? ✓

Installing an HVAC system? ✓

Insulating or weatherizing? ✓

Buying LED bulbs? ✓

Needing an electric water heater? ✓

Contact us today for more information. We're your source for saving!

Is a power line insulated? (And other myths debunked)

The following Q-and-A should clear up some common misconceptions about power lines:

What if I see a downed power line?

Vacate the area, and call 9-1-1. Do not return to the area until you are given the go-ahead by authorities.

Can I tell from looking (or listening) if a downed power line is still live?

Absolutely not. A live wire may not spark or arc, and it may not make any noise at all (although it could).

Where might downed power lines be?

A downed power line might be in the street, ditch or field after a bad storm or car accident or lurking in flood waters or under debris, trees or other objects.

If a line is on the ground, is it dead?

No, even if the power is off in your area. Not only should you not touch it, but the surrounding ground and any metal objects nearby could be energized and extremely dangerous, even deadly.

Why might a power line be down or damaged?

A car accident, severe weather or in some cases it's caused by another unforeseeable reason, such as a storm-damaged tree or an animal.

Why can a bird sit on a power line and not be hurt? Doesn't that mean the line is insulated?

No. Lines are sometimes coated for protection against the elements but still deadly upon contact. A bird or other animal can sit on a power line because there is no path to ground. If the animal comes in contact with the utility pole or other grounded source, it will be electrocuted.

Do different types of utility lines look different?

Sometimes, but for the most part, the non-utility professional cannot know what type of line it is and what it carries (electricity, phone service and so on) just by looking. You also can't tell how much voltage it is carrying.

What if my car comes in contact with a downed power line?

Do not get out or try to drive over it. Call 9-1-1 and wait for utility personnel to de-energize the line. If you smell gas or if there is a fire, exit your car with a solid jump landing on both feet (but don't touch the car at the same time). DO NOT WALK, but hop away.

Can I help someone who has been in an accident involving a downed line?

No. Do not go near the scene and warn others not to do so.

Contact us with any questions about downed lines, and for more information about electrical safety, visit our website and Safe-Electricity.org.



Save energy with new paint job

While the weather's still warm outside, consider having the outside of your house painted—and save some energy in the process.

A coat of fresh paint on your house can boost more than just curb appeal when you use an energy-efficient paint additive designed to reflect the summer heat.

Paint additives are designed to insulate the materials on your home's exterior. The additives come in a powder, which you can stir into any paint or coating without changing the texture or color of the paint.

As the paint dries, tiny, non-toxic ceramic bits in the additives form a layer that reflects radiant and solar heat away from the surface instead of absorbing it. In the summer, that means your air conditioning won't have to work as hard to fend off the outdoor heat.

Used indoors, the paint additives can benefit your bottom line in the winter, too. The energy-efficient layer reflects heat back into the room that normally would be lost to the cold outdoors.



**Know what's below.
Call before you dig.**



August bill shows patronage retirement credit

When you began receiving power from Prairie Energy Cooperative, you became a member of the co-op. This means that you share in the co-op's excess revenue.

While other businesses return their profits to investors/stockholders, we return that excess revenue, called patronage, to you.

Prairie Energy's board of directors approved a \$677,456 capital credit retirement for its members due to our wholesale power supplier, Corn Belt Power Cooperative, retiring a portion of the capital credits that Prairie Energy was allocated in 2018.

This retirement will be returned in the form of a bill credit for those who were members of the co-op and purchased electricity in 2018. Your August bill will show this as "Patronage Dividend Refund." Those who were members that have moved off our lines will receive this retirement in the form of a check.

Call the office with any questions you may have about your patronage.

REMINDER:

Our Garner office location closed on February 1, 2018, and we no longer take phone calls in Garner.

To reach Prairie Energy Cooperative, please call 800-723-0013 or 515-532-2805.

Held promoted

Wes Held acquired his journeyman lineman status by successfully completing the apprentice program through the Iowa Association of Electric Cooperatives on June 16, 2019. Held started his employment with the co-op on January 4, 2016. Way to go Wes!



New employee joins Prairie Energy Cooperative

Austin Codner (pictured right), apprentice lineman, started June 17. He graduated from North Butler High School in Greene, Iowa, before attending the Northwest Iowa Community College Powerline program in Sheldon. Austin is familiar with the cooperative world because his father, Craig Codner, is the CEO for Butler County Rural Electric Cooperative, Allison. Austin enjoys hunting, fishing and working on vehicles. He and wife Kirscha have a 6-month-old baby girl, Jaylee.



HAPPY
Labor Day

Prairie Energy's office will be closed Monday, September 2nd in observance of Labor Day.

Have a fun & safe holiday weekend!

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Tim Marienau, CEO



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