

Powerline Press

NEWSLETTER



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Local Teens Embark on Unforgettable Youth Tour Trip to Washington, D.C.

Education, Training and Information

Three area teens recently returned from an unforgettable trip to Washington, D.C. as part of the Oklahoma Electric Cooperative's Youth Tour. This all-expenses-paid, seven-day adventure through America's capital city is designed to inspire hard-working students who earn this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity.

In June, 66 students and 10 chaperones sponsored by Oklahoma Electric Co-ops traveled to Washington, D.C., to experience the awe-inspiring monuments and historical sites up close. LREC's Youth Tour delegation included Hailey Fort and Calan Teague from Hulbert High School, and Adam Luna from Wagoner High School. These students were awarded this trip after successfully completing an essay contest and interview process back in March.

"Every year, this contest attracts the most inspired and determined students in our service territory," said Juanita Keener, Youth Programs Coordinator. "We always have the best and brightest youth compete for this trip. I was honored to have these students represent LREC this year."

During their time in Washington, students toured historic sites and monuments, attended an interactive question-and-answer session with Oklahoma U.S. Representative Frank Lucas, and received a private tour of the Capitol from Senator Markwayne Mullin. They also made lifelong friends and learned about being youth advocates in their communities. Additionally, they attended Youth Day with 1,600 other Youth Tour winners from 44 states.

The packed schedule included visits to Arlington National Cemetery, MLK Jr. Memorial, FDR Memorial, the National 9/11 Pentagon Memorial, Holocaust Museum, Korean War Veterans Memorial, Vietnam Veterans Memorial, and the Smithsonian museums.

Congratulations to LREC's three well-deserved Youth Tour winners! More information will be announced this coming school year for those interested in entering the 2025 Youth Tour Contest. For details, contact Juanita Keener at jkeener@lrecok.coop or your local school counselor to learn how you can win this fantastic trip next year.



LREC Youth Tour students Hailey Fort, Adam Luna, and Calan Teague in front of White House.



LREC Youth Tour students in front of Washington Monument.

Protect Electronics When the Power Comes Back on

LREC works hard to keep power outages from happening, from routine maintenance and pole inspections to tree trimming. However with all the variables across our 3,000 miles of electric lines, there are times our members may experience an outage or power blink.

RESTORATION SURGES When the power goes out and comes back on, this can be hard on your electronics. The next time you're experiencing an outage, you can take these simple steps to ensure your electronics will not be harmed by a potential surge when your power is restored.

Electrical surges don't only occur when lightning strikes. They can also occur at the end of an outage when your power comes back on. When you lose power, the affected power lines are empty of electrical current. Due to the nature of electricity, those lines are rapidly filled with electrical current upon restoration, and that current can exceed the amount your electronics are designed for.



LREC Walter Pigeon, installing meter socket surge protector.

External surges are less common and occur when the power supply to your home is flooded with more voltage than your home is designed to receive. Typically, this is caused by lightning striking a power line or a broken utility line.

WHAT YOU CAN DO While restoration surges are a possibility, the most common surges are internal. These generally occur when power to a large appliance, like your HVAC compressor, kicks on and is restored. When this happens, a sudden increase in demand for the power supply can result in a small but potentially harmful surge throughout your home.

The best protection against an unexpected surge is a good surge protector. It's important to understand that surge protectors and power strips are not the same thing. Power strips provide you with additional outlets but no protection against a power surge. Make sure you purchase surge protection for sensitive electronics such as computers, stereos, and televisions. For larger appliances, HVAC, washers, dryers, or ovens, you can purchase a meter socket surge protector. This is a service offered by LREC. Please see the information box below for more details. The meter surge protector absorbs overvoltage conditions and channel it into a grounding wire.

Surge protectors are designed to sacrifice itself in the event of a surge to protect your things. In the event of any extended outage, it is always safest to unplug all electronics and switch thermostats off. Surge protector's power strips are also a convenient way to disconnect several devices at once. When the power comes back on, wait a few minutes for the electricity to stabilize before plugging your things back in.



► IS YOUR HOME PROTECTED?

Rest assured, your appliances are protected by a meter socket surge suppressor for **\$5 a month with a 3-year agreement**. Call today 918-772-2526 or go online www.lrecok.coop/surge-protection to learn more about meter surge protection.

\$1 Million Contribution to Local Schools Highlights Community Commitment

CONCERN *for* COMMUNITY

As summer winds down and back-to-school season approaches, the significance of a quality education cannot be overstated. Lake Region has long been a staunch supporter of school districts within its coverage territory. While electric cooperatives are not-for-profit businesses, it's important to note that LREC is not tax-exempt. Each year, LREC pays gross receipts tax to the Oklahoma Tax Commission, with a remarkable 95 percent of these funds distributed to schools based on the miles of electric lines in each school district.

In the fiscal year 2023 alone, LREC proudly contributed a total of **\$1,008,166** in gross receipts taxes, benefitting 33 local schools within its service territory. To visualize this distribution, refer to the chart on the right.

When it comes to supporting education through tax contributions, electric cooperatives and their members stand out from other electric utilities. On a percentage basis, co-ops consistently contribute more tax dollars to local school districts than other utilities, illustrating the co-ops' dedication to fostering educational growth within our communities. 2284701

School	Miles of Line	Amount
Wagoner	384.34	\$121,847.21
Tahlequah	360.53	\$114,299.02
Hulbert	270.42	\$85,733.58
Coweta	262.72	\$83,291.62
Keys	222.41	\$70,511.55
Porter	194.45	\$61,694.59
Locust Grove	159.37	\$50,525.36
Peggs	155.80	\$49,393.32
Grandview	139.07	\$44,091.83
Lowery	132.56	\$42,025.45
Fort Gibson	125.38	\$39,751.54
Norwood	98.24	\$31,147.17
Oaks Mission	87.36	\$27,696.33
Braggs	76.47	\$24,245.08
Briggs	75.09	\$23,806.54
Inola/Gregory	69.74	\$22,111.59
Shady Grove	70.00	\$22,194.63
Okay	66.84	\$21,190.87
Woodall	66.48	\$21,077.89
Kansas	49.83	\$15,799.33
Broken Arrow	20.20	\$6,406.42
Haskell	19.97	\$6,331.22
Catoosa	18.76	\$5,947.70
Chouteau/Mazie	17.27	\$5,477.16
Westville	14.47	\$4,586.13
Webber Falls	12.74	\$4,038.90
Muskogee	3.24	\$1,028.94
Wickliffe	1.61	\$511.87
Leach	1.52	\$483.41
Gore	0.95	\$304.26
Tenkiller	0.79	\$251.06
Jay	0.16	\$51.45
Moseley	0.14	\$43.56
33 Schools	3,180	\$1,008,166

Allow Air Flow Behind the Fridge!

Move your fridge just a few inches away from the wall. This small change ensures proper air circulation, allowing your fridge to run more efficiently and last longer.

Keep your fridge happy and your energy bills lower by giving it some breathing room!



MORE WAYS TO SAVE > www.touchstoneenergy.com

LREC's Jon Enkey Selected to Help Electrify Remote Guatemalan Village

Oklahoma's electric cooperatives have announced a team of 14 volunteers who will embark on a mission to electrify the rural Guatemalan village of Barejones. Among this dedicated group is Jon Enkey from Lake Region Electric Cooperative (LREC), whose selection for this project brings pride to the LREC family.

Jon Enkey, a seasoned lineman with over 28 years of experience at LREC, currently serves as an operations manager. His extensive expertise in building power lines and running electricity makes him an asset to the team traveling over seas. LREC is proud to support Jon in this endeavor and wishes him a safe trip.



The residents of Barejones, located in the agriculturally productive department of Jalapa, east of Guatemala City, will soon have access to electricity for the first time. The volunteer linemen will dedicate nearly three weeks to wiring poles and homes, ensuring the village is ready to receive electricity. Oklahoma volunteers will complete one phase of the project, while linemen from Ohio's electric cooperatives will finish the second phase in early 2025. Once completed, 93 homes, two elementary schools, a health center, and several small businesses will benefit from this newfound access to electric power.

The teams will tackle 7.5 km of primary lines, 4.4 km of secondary lines, and install approximately 150 poles and over nine transformers in the mountainous terrain. Each home will be equipped with lightbulbs, light switches, and electrical outlets, marking a significant step forward in the village's development.

Chris Meyers, General Manager of the Oklahoma Association of Electric Cooperatives (OAEC), expressed his gratitude: "We are grateful for the co-op linemen willing to leave their homes and families for an extended period of time to empower far-away communities. Access to electricity will bring economic empowerment, better access to health care, and enhanced safety for these villagers."

The OAEC, a statewide association supported by local electric distribution and generation/transmission cooperatives, comprises 27 distribution cooperative members and three generation/transmission cooperative member systems. This initiative highlights their dedication to making a positive impact both locally and globally.

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Hidden Account Number

Look for your account number hidden in this issue of the *Powerline Press*. If you find your number, Lake Region Electric will credit your next bill. To claim your credit, notify LREC's Hulbert office by phone during the month of publication.

The amount increases by \$10 with each issue your prize goes unclaimed to a maximum of \$50.

Cooperative bylaws are available upon request at Lake Region Electric Cooperative's office in Hulbert.