

# Y-W ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION

NOVEMBER 2021



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**Y-W Electric Association, Inc.**, is dedicated to providing high-quality, reliable electric service and related products to our members at competitive prices. Our members deserve and shall receive quality service unexcelled in our industry. We are committed to maintaining an environment where the Board of Directors and employees can perform at maximum potential to benefit our Y-W community.

## IT'S A MATTER OF (CO-OP!) PRINCIPLES: PART 2

BY TRENT LOUTENSOCK GENERAL MANAGER



TRENT LOUTENSOCK

For me, this is a time of year for reflection, and topping my list of things I'm grateful for is our wonderful community. I know I speak for all Y-W Electric Association, Inc., employees when I say we are thankful to be in such an incredible place. We are fortunate to live in the same place where we work, which makes our ties to this community that much stronger.

In last month's column, you may recall that I touched on the first three cooperative principles. This month, I want to tell you about the remaining four principles. The cooperative principles are essential to the co-op business model and benefit all members of the co-op.

### AUTONOMY AND INDEPENDENCE

The fourth principal, **autonomy and independence**, means the co-op operates in an autonomous way that is solely directed and guided by its consumer-members, reflecting the values and needs of our local community. The co-op is not being influenced by leaders or shareholders several states away. Instead, the co-op is led by the local consumer-members it serves.

### EDUCATION AND TRAINING

The fifth principle, **education and training**, focuses on enhancing the knowledge of co-op employees and board members, which enables them to contribute to the development of the co-op.

By investing in continuous learning for our employees and board members, our co-op is certainly making a commitment to individual professional and personal growth, but the commitment extends even further to the future of the co-op and the high quality of service consumer-members expect and deserve. It's a win-win situation.

We also strive to inform you, our consumer-members, and the public about the mission and operations of the co-op. In fact, that's why you receive this magazine every month — so we can share the latest

co-op news and updates, as well as energy efficiency and safety tips.

### COOPERATION AMONG COOPERATIVES

**Cooperation among cooperatives** is the sixth principle and it fosters the way co-ops work together to address bigger challenges. While this principle applies to all types of cooperatives, it is especially relevant in the energy industry. In our case, we put this principle in action after major storms and disasters that cause widespread power outages. When this happens, we call on nearby co-ops to come to our aid and assist with restoration efforts — and we, of course, extend the same help to them when they need us. I can't think of a better example of cooperation among cooperatives.

In addition, because we are part of the national electric co-op network, we can connect and collaborate with other electric co-ops to tackle industry-related challenges, like cybersecurity and an ever-changing energy landscape.

### CONCERN FOR COMMUNITY

The seventh principle, **concern for community**, is essential to who we are as cooperatives. We serve our community not only by being an essential service, but also by helping to power our local economy. Whether through economic development, volunteerism or donations to local causes, we invest in this community; it's our home too.

I think you'll find most cooperatives bring good people together to make good things happen in the community. We hope you feel that way about us, your local electric co-op.

We at Y-W Electric Association, Inc., are thankful for your membership. We hope you have a wonderful Thanksgiving.

## Y-W WELCOMES TWO NEW EMPLOYEES

**Y**-W Electric Association wants to welcome **Jayce Bauer** to the cooperative. He started his employment at Y-W on September 28 as a line technician. Jayce was raised in the Wiley, Colorado, area and graduated from Wiley High School. He went on to continue his education at Hutchinson Community College in Hutchinson, Kansas. In 2020 he decided to become a line technician and worked as a utility line contractor. His hobbies include spending time outdoors hunting, fishing and other activities. Welcome to the co-op family, Jayce.



**Jayce Bauer**, line technician, started in September.



**Line technician Colby Purkeypile** started in September.

Y-W Electric Association welcomes **Colby Purkeypile** to the cooperative. He started his employment as a Y-W line technician on September 7. Colby was raised in Holyoke, Colorado, and graduated from Holyoke High School. He continued his education at Western Nebraska Community College in Alliance, Nebraska, where he graduated in

2020. He worked for High West Energy as an intern student then worked for Nebraska Public Power District before joining Y-W. He enjoys spending time with family and outdoor activities, which include hunting and fishing. Welcome to the Y-W Electric family, Colby. [Darlene Fadenrecht, 890609100]



### November 2021 **Energy Efficiency** Tip of the Month

One of the best ways you can save energy and stay comfortable this winter is to caulk and weather-strip areas that typically need sealing. Start by sealing around windows and doors. Seal plumbing, ducting and areas where electrical wiring comes through walls, floors and ceilings for additional energy savings.

Source: [energy.gov](http://energy.gov)

## BILLING CORNER

### SMARTHUB BILL PAY & MORE

For convenience, Y-W Electric offers the ability to pay your account with the SmartHub app. This service allows you to pay your bill electronically with a credit or debit card or checking account. This is also a great place to go to get account information. Information on billing history, usage, payment history and past billing invoices are available. There is also a link to sign up for auto payment.

Reporting an outage is also available on SmartHub. This information goes directly to our operations department in an email. This leaves our phone lines open for those who do not have SmartHub available.

The app is compatible with iPhones as well as Android devices. Check out our website at [ywelectric.coop](http://ywelectric.coop) for more information.

### CLAIM YOUR CREDIT

Each month, Y-W Electric offers consumer-members a chance to earn a \$20 credit on their next electric bill. If you recognize your name and account number in this magazine, call 800-660-2291 and ask for your credit. It couldn't be easier.

Get acquainted with your account number, read your *Colorado Country Life* magazine and pick up the phone. That's all the energy you'll need to claim your energy bucks.

You must claim your credit during the month in which your name appears in the magazine. (Check the date on the front cover.)



Winners claiming \$20 from the September 2021 issue:

- Brie Sampson
- Tyson and Tiffany Sprouse
- Debra Cooper

# BE SAFE DURING THE HO·HO·HOLIDAYS

## 10 TIPS TO HELP YOU STAY JOLLY



Before you plan out your new holiday lighting scheme or repeat last year's festive design, keep these 10 safety tips in mind when decorating outdoors:

1

Do not toss light strands up into the air. They could get too close to or come into contact with a power line.

2

Before using a ladder, always look up and assess all power line locations.

3

Carry a ladder horizontally when transporting it.

4

Keep at least 10 feet between yourself (and any item you are holding) and a power line.

5

Do not use staples, nails or tacks to secure light strands, cords, wires or extension cords.

6

String together no more than the number of strands recommended by the manufacturer.

7

Plug all lights and extension cords into GFCI-protected outlets.

8

Use lights and extension cords rated for outdoor use.

9

Do not use frayed, cracked or otherwise damaged cords, plugs or lights.

10

Use only lights and products certified by a reputable testing lab.



## DON'T MISS OUT ON COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIPS

Available through Y-W Electric for 2022

Get your applications in prior to the deadline to compete for the following scholarships:

- Y-W Electric\* \$1,000 per year scholarships, renewable up to \$4,000
- Y-W Electric\* \$1,000 scholarships
- Basin Electric \$1,000 scholarships
- Y-W Electric\* \$500 scholarships
- Y-W Electric\* \$500 continuing education scholarship
- Tri-State Generation and Transmission \$500 scholarships
- Y-W Electric\* \$1,000 line technician training scholarship

\*Y-W Electric scholarships are funded by unclaimed capital credits.

### TO QUALIFY FOR THESE SCHOLARSHIPS:

- Your parents or guardians must receive electric service from Y-W Electric
- You must be a graduating student from a local high school or approved homeschool program or be a continuing college student
- You must maintain full-time resident student status
- Semesters must be continuous excluding summer
- You must provide a copy of your grade transcript to Y-W Electric at the end of each semester to receive renewable funding for specific scholarships
- You must maintain minimum GPA requirements
- Applications are available on our website, [ywelectric.coop](http://ywelectric.coop).
- Applications must be delivered to Y-W Electric prior to 5 p.m. January 28, 2022
- Applications received after January 28, 2022, WILL NOT BE CONSIDERED, regardless of postmark.

For more information, please see your high school guidance counselor or call Andy Molt at Y-W Electric at 970-345-2291 and he will be happy to answer any questions. [James L. Hatheway, 1041001402]

 LEARN MORE AT:  
Safe Electricity.org®



# 2022 YOUTH TRIPS

## ATTENTION HIGH SCHOOL JUNIORS

Win a trip to Washington, D.C., or a week at camp at Glen Eden Resort!

If you are interested in an intriguing, all-expenses-paid experience this summer, please obtain and fill out an application for the Youth Leadership Camp and the Washington D.C. Youth Tour. **The application deadline is December 17, 2021.**

### WASHINGTON D.C. YOUTH TOUR

The winner will join other students from Colorado co-ops and co-ops across the United States **June 12-19, 2022**. A week of activities begins in Denver on June 12. Students will visit our state capitol building before heading to Washington, D.C. Once in Washington, D.C., students will meet many of our Colorado congressional members and learn about electric cooperatives and the issues facing the electric industry today. There will plenty of time for fun and touring. The lucky student will visit Mount Vernon, the National Cathedral, the Holocaust museum, Arlington National Cemetery and the Library of Congress. Students will stroll through the Smithsonian museums, visit the monuments and memorials and much more. There will be an opportunity to learn about electricity generation, transmission and distribution while having the time of your life with over 2,000 other students. An evening at the theater, a cruise on the Potomac River, dancing and mingling are all a part of this once-in-a-lifetime experience with many memories to share. [CJ and Wendy Weatherly, 951200503]

### YOUTH LEADERSHIP CAMP

About 100 students are chosen and sponsored by rural electric cooperatives from all over Colorado, Kansas, Wyoming and Oklahoma to attend the Youth Leadership Camp **July 16-21, 2022**. The camp is designed to provide a better understanding of cooperatives, the legislative processes, energy prices, power generation and the rural electric cooperative program. It also focuses on developing leadership skills to handle the challenges of the future. The camp, run by the students, is a lot of fun, and it also provides an excellent learning experience. Field trips are planned to tour a large open-pit coal mine and an electric generation power plant. There is also time for fun and sightseeing. Free time is spent playing volleyball, swimming, whitewater rafting, dancing, attending a banquet and meeting many new friends. [Johnny E. and Connie J. Moore, 136270102]

All expenses for the camp are covered by Y-W Electric. The parent or guardian of an applicant must be a member of Y-W and/or directly receive electric power from Y-W Electric. The selection process is conducted similar to a job interview, so you will gain experience in that area. [Amber R. Kessinger, 2421001503]

- Applications are available on our website, [ywelectric.coop](http://ywelectric.coop).
- For more information, please see your high school guidance counselor or call Andy Molt at Y-W Electric at 970-345-2291. He will be happy to answer any questions.

