

Y-W ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION

DECEMBER 2021



MAILING ADDRESS

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Akron, CO 80720



STREET ADDRESS

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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.

SEASON'S GREETINGS FROM Y-W ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION, INC.

BY TRENT LOUTENSOCK GENERAL MANAGER



TRENT LOUTENSOCK

The holidays. I love everything about this time of year. Just the thought of the holiday season brings a smile to my face and evokes a sense of comfort and nostalgia. Recalling family gatherings and traditions warms my heart and fills my senses.

It's a time of reflection. I'm grateful for my own family as well as my co-op family. At Y-W Electric Association, Inc., we're driven by a sense of mission and purpose. Our team feels a strong connection to our community and our consumer-members because we live here too.

While many community-focused programs and activities such as food and toy drives ramp up this time of year, we have several programs and services in place to help our consumer-members year round. I want to remind you about some of these offerings that could benefit you and your family.

We hope you'll take advantage of our SmartHub app that empowers you to monitor, manage and pay your electric bill conveniently through your phone. Another service we will offer starting in 2022 is prepaid metering, which is intended to help budget your monthly energy costs. Y-W Electric consumer-members can pay

for electricity before it's used, then use the electricity until the credit expires. During the time period paid for, you'll receive regular feedback on your balance. We also offer energy-efficiency programs to save you money and energy. Visit our website at ywelectric.coop for details about our energy-efficiency programs.

But the most important investment we make is in our local youth. Employees of Y-W Electric have logged hundreds of volunteer hours supporting schools, youth clubs and programs along with providing more than \$20,000 annually in scholarships for local students. Each year through our Youth Tour and Leadership Camp programs, we send high school juniors to Washington, D.C., and Steamboat Springs for a week-long immersion to experience cooperatives in action.

At the heart of all of these programs is you, the consumer-members we proudly serve. Looking back, I'm grateful for so many wonderful community partners and for the positive impact we can continue to make.

This holiday season, I wish you and your loved ones peace, joy and prosperity. Speaking on behalf of our team at Y-W Electric, I know the future will be bright, because of you. [Rose Clanton, 4421006004]

Y-W Electric offices will be closed Friday, December 24 and Friday, December 31. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!





Deck the Halls SAFELY

- Use only lights, cords, animated displays and decorations **rated for outdoor use**.
- When decorating outside, **look up and around** for power lines. **Never throw lights** or other decorations into trees near power lines.
- Keep ladders, equipment and yourself **at least 10 feet away** from power lines.
- Cords should be plugged into outlets equipped with **Ground Fault Circuit Interrupters (GFCIs)**.

For more **holiday safety tips**, visit:



Decorate This Holiday with Safety in Mind

There's nothing like putting up lights and decorations to get you in the holiday spirit. It's something that many do every year without incident, yet the holidays are also one of the most hazardous times of the year when it comes to electrical fires and accidents.

Safe Electricity offers several tips as you deck the halls this season:

- When decorating outside, look up and around for power lines. Never throw lights or other decorations into trees near power lines.
- Keep ladders, equipment and yourself at least 10 feet from power lines.
- Match plugs with outlets. Do not force a three-pronged plug into a two-pronged outlet or extension cord.
- Outside, use only lights, cords, animated displays and decorations rated for outdoor use. Follow the manufacturer's instructions on how

to use them. Ensure outdoor outlets or extension cords are equipped with ground-fault circuit interrupters.

- Never string more strands of lights together than recommended by the manufacturer.
- Do not staple or nail through light strings or electrical cords. Use plastic or insulated hooks to hang lights.
- Do not attach cords to utility poles.

The outside of your home is not the only place to use caution. Use care when placing and decorating trees inside your home. Place fresh-cut and artificial trees away from heat sources such as registers, fireplaces and radiators, and water fresh-cut trees frequently. Turn lights off before you go to sleep, or use timers.

Y-W Electric and Safe Electricity wish you and your family a safe and happy holiday season. For more information on holiday safety tips, visit SafeElectricity.org.

BILLING CORNER

2021 YEAR-END INFORMATION

The year 2021 will end soon and many of our consumer-members are reviewing their power consumption and costs for the past year. Because of the billing cycle, the December 2021 usage is not billed until the second week of January 2022.

Since the usage for the calendar year is not billed in the calendar year (December billed in January), what you paid at a certain location during the calendar year is not necessarily the 2021 usage. We can help you with any questions concerning your usage or energy charges. When requesting yearly information, please specify whether you need the yearly usage or the total amount paid during the year, or both.

If you have any questions or need information about your accounts, please contact our billing department at 1-800-660-2291 or come into the Akron office. We can easily give you the kilowatt-hour and energy charge figures for 2021. If you require more information than this, please allow us a few days to get it gathered. Please keep this in mind when requesting yearly information.

All of us at Y-W Electric sincerely wish you a prosperous 2022.

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 October 2021 issue:

- Casey and Brandi Sievers
- Goldie Harman
- Frances Berggren
- Roger Chrismer

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

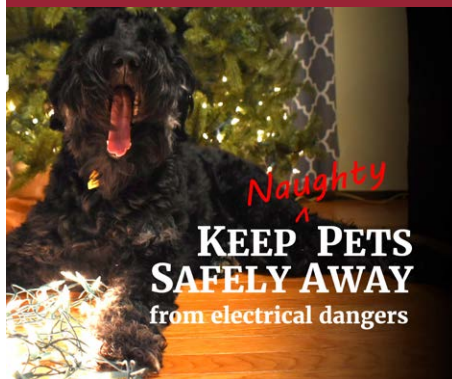
*Y-W Electric scholarships are funded by unclaimed capital credits.

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.
- Visit ywelectric.coop to start the application process.
- 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. [Christina Robles, 1370500303]

Protect Your Pets



Electronics are popular gifts during the holidays and could be a hazard for your pets. When using laptops, tablets, phones or other electronics that are charging and plugged into an outlet, make sure your pet does not chew on the cord, which could cause electrical shock.

safeelectricity.org

Y-W SERVICE AWARDS

Thank you to the following Y-W Electric Association employees for their years of service.



▲ **Doug Baker**
Crew Foreman
30 years



▲ **Joshua Ballah**
Crew Foreman
20 years



▲ **Kyle Roberts**
Service Area Foreman
10 years



▲ **Brock Houston**
Crew Foreman
10 years



▲ **Garret Basler**
Line Technician
5 years



▲ **Cami Mehring**
Consumer Accounting Rep
5 years

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 there, students will meet many of our Colorado congressional members and learn about electric cooperatives and the issues facing the electric industry today. There will be 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, 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. [Allen E. and Denise Zuege, 1033506600]

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. [S. W. Bill Runge, 212303800]

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 similarly to a job interview to help you gain experience in that area. [Steve Frey, 2017002003]

- Visit our website at ywelectric.coop to start the application process.
- 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.

