

# Y-W ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION

OCTOBER 2023

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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.

**Win a Bill Credit**

Each month, Y-W Electric Association offers its members a chance to earn a \$20 credit on their next electric bill. If you find 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. You must claim your credit during the month in which your name appears in the magazine. (Check the date on the front cover.) See page 6 for last month's winners.

## Playing it Safe Online

BY TRENT LOUTENSOCK GENERAL MANAGER



TRENT LOUTENSOCK

In today's world, most of us don't leave the front door unlocked. We protect our homes, loved ones, and valuables from intruders with locks, alarms, and other security measures. Cybersecurity is no different. It's the practice of protecting other valuables such as your identity, banking, health records, and other sensitive information from digital attacks and theft.

In addition to fresh apple cider and crisper air, October is the time of year we recognize Cybersecurity Awareness Month. Taking necessary steps to protect our personal information is a year-round practice, and at Y-W Electric Association Inc., we use this time to share helpful cybersecurity reminders across our team of employees and with our members.

According to the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Agency (an agency of the United States Department of Homeland Security that is responsible for strengthening cybersecurity and infrastructure protection), below are the four best ways to keep you and your family safe online.

1. **Implement multi-factor authentication** (also known as two-step verification) on your accounts. The additional layer of protection makes it much harder for criminals to access your information. Your accounts should remain inaccessible if multistep verification is enabled.
2. **Update your software.** This is one of the easiest ways to protect your personal data. When downloading a software update, make sure it's coming straight from the company that created it. Beware of fake pop-ups that request urgent downloads. Better yet, turn on automatic updates.
3. **Think before you click.** Most successful cyber attacks start with a phishing email. Don't take the bait when cyber criminals go phishing. Avoid emails (or texts) that look too good to be true, oddly urgent, poorly crafted, or include unusual requests.
4. **Create strong passwords.** Use long, unique, and complex words or phrases and be sure to use a different password for each account. Consider using a password manager to save time. Some password managers can work across all devices, protect your identity, and notify you of potential phishing websites.

**For the young people in your household**

Just as you would talk with your children about safety in the physical world, discuss ways to stay safe online. Help them understand the public nature of the internet. Young people need to know early on that what is shared online stays online and is difficult (if not impossible) to take back. Just as you would guard your money or valuables, children need to learn to guard their personal information, especially on social networks. As a parent or guardian, teach your children about and use the privacy and security settings on social networks and gaming sites.

**Keeping the electric grid and your data secure**

In addition to keeping your kids and family safe online, we at Y-W Electric are working to boost our own cybersecurity efforts. We're doing our share on the cyber front. Part of

## Playing it **Safe Online** *continued*

offering excellent service is keeping that service secure and reliable. For Y-W Electric, reliability means repairing wear-and-tear, upgrading equipment to withstand storms and severe weather, and using technology and best practices to keep our system secure from cybersecurity issues. (*Chase Shellberg, 731119006*)

We also work together with co-ops across the country to develop new technologies and infrastructure, learn from each other, and keep the grid's network secure. For example, we participate in cybersecurity tabletop exercises with National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, where co-ops around the country come together to simulate realistic cyber issues and practice responding to the latest types of issues we might have to manage.

While we can't stop a storm or predict every disruption, as a co-op we do everything we can to keep the lights on and our members protected. If we all do our part, our interconnected world will be safer and more secure for everyone.

# REBATES



Did you know Y-W Electric Association offers rebates for outdoor power equipment?

For more information about Y-W Electric's rebate program and eligible products, visit [ywelectric.coop/rebate-program-information](http://ywelectric.coop/rebate-program-information).

## BILLING CORNER Smart Hub Bill Pay & More

Y-W Electric offers an option to pay your account with the SmartHub app. This service allows you to pay your bill electronically with a credit card, debit card, or checking account. This is also a great place to find 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 the Y-W Electric operations department which leaves the phone lines open for those who do not have SmartHub available who also need to report an outage.

The app is compatible with iPhones and Android devices. Visit us online at [ywelectric.coop](http://ywelectric.coop) for more information.

### Congratulations to the winners claiming \$20 from the August issue:



- Trent Twiss
- Dennis & Laura Lengel
- Vicki Hillyer
- Page Packer
- George Homm

## Attention High School Juniors

# WASHINGTON DC YOUTH TOUR

## Now Accepting Applications



If you are interested in an intriguing, all-expense-paid experience this summer, please obtain and fill out an application for the CEI Energy camp and the Washington D.C. Youth Tour.

**Deadline to Apply:  
December 15, 2023**

**APPLY TODAY**

One local student whose family receives electricity from Y-W Electric will be chosen to join other students from electric co-ops across Colorado and the United States the week of June 17-23, 2024.

The week begins in Denver on June 17. The Colorado group will visit the state Capitol before heading to Washington, D.C. Once in Washington, D.C., the group 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. They'll stroll through 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 1,500 other students. An evening at the theatre, a cruise on the Potomac River are all a part of this once in a lifetime experience, making many memories to share.

(*Mark Shivley, 1231700702*)

# DON'T MISS OUT ON FREE MONEY FROM Y-W ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION, INC.

## GET YOUR APPLICATIONS IN PRIOR TO THE DEADLINE TO COMPETE FOR THE FOLLOWING SCHOLARSHIPS:

Y-W Electric\* \$1,000/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 G&T \$500 scholarships

Y-W Electric\* \$1,000 line technician training scholarship

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

**For more information, please see your high school guidance counselor or call Andy Molt at Y-W Electric 970-345-2291. He will be happy to answer any questions.**



Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

## COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE THROUGH Y-W ELECTRIC



**APPLY TODAY!**

## 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 home-schooling program or be a continuing college student.
- ✓ You must maintain full-time resident student status.
- ✓ Semesters must be continuous excluding summer.
- ✓ You must provide copy of 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 online at [ywelectric.coop](http://ywelectric.coop) beginning October 2023.
- ✓ Applications must be emailed or delivered to Y-W prior to 5 p.m. January 31, 2024.
- ✓ Applications received after January 31, 2024 WILL NOT BE CONSIDERED, regardless of postmark.



(Brenda Williams, 4114003001)



# ATTENTION STUDENTS

**APPLY NOW FOR  
YOUTH  
LEADERSHIP  
CAMP  
2024**

STEAMBOAT SPRINGS, CO



**Y W ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION, INC.**

**CONTACT YW ELECTRIC at 970-345-2291  
APPLY ON OUR WEBSITE AT YWELECTRIC.COOP**

*(Beverly Dutton, 783003006)*

On July 13-18, 2024, about one hundred students are sponsored by rural electric cooperatives from Colorado, Kansas, Wyoming, and Oklahoma to attend the Youth Leadership Camp. The camp is designed to provide a better understanding of cooperatives, 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 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 taken up with volleyball, swimming, whitewater rafting, dancing, a banquet, and meeting many new friends.

- All expenses for the camp are covered by Y-W Electric Association. The parent or guardian of an applicant must be a member of Y-W and/or directly receive electric power from Y-W Electric Association. The selection process is conducted similar to a job interview so you will gain experience in that area.
- Applications are available on our website at [ywelectric.coop](http://ywelectric.coop).
- For more information, please see your guidance counselor or call Andy Molt at Y-W Electric, 970-345-2291.

## October is National Co-op Month

October is National Co-op Month, and Y-W Electric Association is joining cooperatives across the U.S. to celebrate. Co-ops come in all shapes and sizes, but they each have a common goal: to provide goods or services for the members of the co-op.

Electric co-ops, including Y-W Electric, exist to serve their members. Our priority is to provide affordable, reliable energy to our local communities. Because we are led by you, the members we serve, we can evolve to meet your needs. This October, as we celebrate Co-op Month, we're focusing on the ways "Co-ops Grow" for their members.

**Co-ops grow communities.** Co-ops help communities grow by promoting economic empowerment, fostering community engagement, and supporting the unique needs of co-op members. "Concern for Community" is one of our core principles — and being community-focused is essential to everything we do.

**Co-ops grow together.** Co-ops are all about cooperation, not competition. That's why electric co-ops across Colorado and the country work together to share lessons learned, successful strategies, and better ways to serve our members. We're better when we grow together. *(Allen Pugh, 2561006502)*

**Co-ops grow tomorrow's leaders.** Electric co-ops serve as fertile ground for growing tomorrow's leaders through a variety of younger member engagement programs. Whether through school demonstrations, community events, or the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour program, we're committed to providing opportunities for our local kids to learn and thrive in our community and beyond.

**Co-ops grow for you.** At Y-W Electric your satisfaction is our number one goal. It's why we were formed many years ago to fulfill a uniquely local purpose. We've come a long way since then, and your needs continue to evolve. That's why we'll never stop growing for you.

**CO-OPS  
GROW  
COMMUNITIES**

Electric cooperatives are joining co-ops across the U.S. to celebrate National Co-op Month. As your local electric co-op, our services are shaped to meet your specific needs. We love growing with you, the members we are proud to serve.