

# Y-W ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION

DECEMBER 2023



## MAILING ADDRESS

P.O. Box Y  
Akron, CO 80720



## STREET ADDRESS

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Akron, CO 80720



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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.

## NEW OFFICE HOURS

7:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.  
Monday – Thursday

# Reliable Power for Today – and Tomorrow

BY TRENT LOUTENSOCK GENERAL MANAGER



TRENT LOUTENSOCK

Reframing in a new year sparks a sense of renewed hope and optimism about the future. As the General Manager of Y-W Electric Association, Inc., for me, it's a time to reflect on where we are and where we're going. At the heart of this reflection, I think about ways we can better serve you, the members of the cooperative.

Our team at Y-W Electric is always looking ahead, exploring ways to innovate and use new technologies to improve our services. As our nation increasingly relies on electricity to power the economy, keeping the lights on has never been more important. We're committed to powering — and empowering — our community at a cost that local families and businesses can afford. *[Chanelle Reese, 2707006217]*

How are we working to ensure reliable and affordable power while adapting to a changing energy landscape and our community's evolving needs?

One critical component of reliable power is the mix of energy resources used to generate the electricity that keeps the lights on across Washington and Yuma counties. You may not realize it, but Y-W Electric doesn't generate electricity. Instead, we purchase it from our energy provider, Tri State Generation & Transmission Association and from there, we distribute it to homes and businesses throughout our community. Our current energy resource mix is made up of 25.5% renewable generation, 6.3% natural gas, 60.8% coal, and 7.4% bulk grid purchases.

We're increasingly using more electricity generated from renewable energy sources, but we still depend on a diverse energy mix to ensure reliable power that's available to our members whenever they need it.

In addition to managing a reliable energy mix, Y-W Electric is using technology to enhance our local grid, limit service disruptions, and improve outage response times. *[Danielle Olofson, 5271006008]*

Advanced metering technology, also known as AMI, enables two-way communication between the co-op and consumers. In the event of a power outage, AMI helps pinpoint the exact location of the outage and can even analyze damaged or tampered meters. AMI helps Y-W Electric save money with real-time data and ultimately improves power reliability for our entire community.

Proactive tree trimming is another way we limit service disruptions. Scheduled trimming keeps power lines clear from overgrown limbs that are likely to fall. Inspections of lines and vegetation have allowed us to reduce labor and equipment costs while bolstering reliability. Pole inspections on a rotation throughout the service territory are a way that we ensure structural integrity of our poles. This improves reliability and weather resilience of our lines by detecting structural issues with poles so we can replace damaged structures before they fail and cause outages.

One of the best methods for improving our services to you is monitoring trends and leading practices from other electric co-ops in Colorado and across the country. Learning from other co-ops is one of the many benefits of the cooperative business model because for us, it's about cooperation, not competition.

As we turn our focus to 2024, Y-W Electric will continue working to provide the reliable, affordable electricity you expect and deserve — for today and tomorrow.

## Y-W Electric Employees **SERVICE AWARDS**

The following Y-W Electric employees are recognized for their ongoing commitment and dedicated service to the cooperative:

- Steve Marshall – 5 years
- Clay Cordell – 5 years
- Gannon Leifheit – 10 years
- Courtney Agan – 15 years
- Daniel Glanz – 15 years
- Jeaninne Koch – 20 years
- Theron Shaffer – 30 years
- Samantha Gebauer – 35 years



Steve Marshall



Clay Cordell



Gannon Leifheit



Courtney Agan



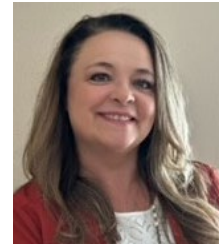
Daniel Glanz



Jeaninne Koch



Theron Shaffer



Samantha Gebauer

## Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Get smart with a better way to heat and cool your home. Smart thermostats are Wi-Fi enabled and automatically adjust heating and cooling temperature settings in your home for optimal performance. Smart thermostats learn your temperature preferences and establish a schedule that adjusts to energy-saving settings when you're asleep or away.

For maximum energy savings, look for smart thermostat models with the Energy Star label. [Stuart E Tyner, 792901902]

Source: Dept. of Energy

## BILLING CORNER 2023 YEAR END INFORMATION

2023 is coming to an end and many Y-W Electric Association consumers are reviewing their power consumption and costs for the past year. Because of the billing cycle, December 2023 usage is not billed until the second week of January 2024. [Marcus Baucke, 721401102]

Since the usage for the calendar year is not billed in the calendar year, what you have paid at a certain location during the calendar year is not necessarily the 2023 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, 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 2023. If you require more information than this, please allow us a few days to collect it. Please keep this in mind when requesting yearly information.

All of us at Y-W Electric sincerely wish you a prosperous 2024.



Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

## REBATES

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

Low noise and low maintenance — it's a great time of year to make the switch to an electric snowblower!

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).



### 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.)



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

Chase Shellberg  
Mark Shivley  
Brenda Williams

# 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.**

## 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 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 online at [ywelectric.coop](http://ywelectric.coop).
- ✓ 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.



**ELECTRIC  
ASSOCIATION, INC.**

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

# COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE THROUGH Y-W ELECTRIC



**APPLY TODAY!**



# MAKE SURE SAFETY IS ON YOUR HOLIDAY MENU

The kitchen can be a busy place during the holiday season for family members who are preparing favorite recipes (or sampling those favorite recipes).

Whether you are a seasoned cook or novice baker, it's important to keep electrical safety in mind. In the United States alone, approximately 1,000 deaths occur each year as a result of electrical injuries, according to the National Institutes of Health. An additional non-fatal 30,000 shock incidents occur each year. The following kitchen hazards may cause electric shock:

- Damaged or worn electrical cords
- Equipment and appliances with improper or faulty wiring
- Use of damp cloths or water for cooking or cleaning near sources of electricity

The following tips may help prevent electric shock in your home:

- Always read and follow an appliance's operating instructions.
- Always dry your hands before handling cords or plugs. [*Earl D. Harwood, 333504602*]
- If an unplugged appliance cord gets wet or damp, do not plug it in until it is thoroughly dry.
- Do not handle electrical cords or appliances when standing in water.
- Pull on the plug, not the cord, to disconnect an appliance from an outlet.
- To avoid damaging cords, don't run them across walkways or underneath rugs.

- Regularly inspect electrical cords and plugs for damaged insulation and exposed wiring; immediately discard any damaged item. Avoid using any cord or plug that is frayed, cracked, taped, or otherwise questionable.
- Handle only the insulated part of a plug or cord when disposing it.
- Do not overload extension cords, multi-pack "power strips," or surge protectors with too many appliances or other items, and don't plug them into each other. Use them only as a temporary solution, not a permanent one.
- Ensure that extension cords, power strips, and surge protectors are in good condition and the appropriate gauge for the job (the lower the number, the bigger the gauge and the greater the amperage and wattage).
- Never remove the third (round or U-shaped) prong from a plug; the prong is a grounding/safety feature designed to reduce the risk of shock and electrocution.
- If you have doubts about your home's electrical system, have a licensed electrician evaluate wiring, outlets, and switches.
- Educate yourself and your family on how to properly turn off your home's power in case of an emergency.

**For more information about electrical safety, visit [SafeElectricity.org](http://SafeElectricity.org).**

**APPLY NOW FOR  
YOUTH  
LEADERSHIP  
CAMP  
2024**

STEAMBOAT SPRINGS, CO






**ELECTRIC  
ASSOCIATION, INC.**

**CONTACT YW ELECTRIC at 970-345-2291  
APPLY ON OUR WEBSITE AT [YWELECTRIC.COOP](http://YWELECTRIC.COOP)**

## ATTENTION STUDENTS

On July 13-18, 2024, about 100 students are sponsored by rural electric cooperatives from Colorado, Kansas, Wyoming, and Oklahoma to attend 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 Electric and/or directly receive electric power from Y-W Electric. The selection process is conducted like 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.