



ROLLING HILLS ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

NEWS

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Contact Us

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Like us on Facebook

On Facebook, search for “Rolling Hills Electric Cooperative, Inc.” and like our page for continued updates, energy efficiency tips, cooperative news and outage updates.



Bales Receives \$500 Scholarship

One year ago, **REAGAN BALES**, son of Robin and Larry Bales, Osborne, submitted his application to compete for one of two trips the summer of 2020. As it turned out, Reagan's combined score, including the open-book quiz, resumé, essay and interview provided him with the top rank.

Following the interviews with the top two youth, Reagan was given his choice of the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour to Washington, D.C., in June 2020 or the Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp near Steamboat Springs, Colorado, in July 2020. Reagan jumped at the opportunity to attend the leadership camp.

The required paperwork was submitted to Kansas Electric Cooperatives, Inc. (KEC) in Topeka. Then in March as students didn't get to return to school due to the pandemic, youth tour and camp officials began meeting virtually to determine what needed to be done for the safety and health of the youth, leaders, chaperones and medical staff. We all know the rest of the story about the trips. Canceling the trips was a tremendous disappointment to all.

Since the camp was canceled, Craig Zablocki, a camp keynote speaker, offered a webinar to those students



From left: Shana Read, director of education and training for KEC, presents a \$500 scholarship to Reagan Bales for participating in a leadership webinar and submitting the winning video “Lead Like a Child.” Also pictured are Linnea Beebe, member services, and Doug Jackson, manager. Bales was sponsored by Rolling Hills Electric.

selected for camp focusing on understanding important leadership traits. Participating students were invited to submit a video about what quality they think is most important in a leader. There were 19 application videos submitted by students.

Reagan, top video winner, was awarded a \$500 KEC scholarship by Shana Read, KEC director of education and training, at the office of Rolling Hills Electric. In his video titled “Lead Like a Child,” Reagan stresses that leaders should be energetic, authentic, bold, teachable and passionate.

“When listening to the webinar with Craig Zablocki, I couldn't help but notice

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Andersen Receives Director Gold Certificate

Rolling Hills trustee **ERIC ANDERSEN**, Jamestown, recently received his Director Gold certification.

To earn this highest level of certification, Andersen had to complete the Certified Cooperative Director courses and then earn his Board Leadership Certificate.

To maintain the Director Gold Certification, a board member must earn three credits from the approved list of continuing education programs within a two-year period.

Director certificate programs are specifically designed to help electric cooperative directors, at every stage of their service, understand their roles and responsibilities, stay up-to-date on the key issues and trends in the industry and prepare them to meet current and future challenges facing electric cooperatives.

Board members receive their education courses throughout the year in conjunction with a variety of conferences and events hosted by Kansas Electric Cooperatives, Inc. the statewide association, and National Rural Electric Cooperative Association.

Help us congratulate Andersen on his achievement and continued service to Rolling Hills Electric.



Eric Andersen, Rolling Hills board member, shows his Director Gold Certificate.

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WATT'S HAPPENING

2020: A Year to Remember

Has this year flown by for anyone else or is it me? It seems like March was just a few months back when everything went crazy with the pandemic spreading. Rolling Hills took precautions to keep our members, employees and vendors safe and healthy.

The end of March, four office employees were asked to office from home for the month of April. I happened to be one of the four. Did I enjoy remotely working from home? I didn't particularly care for it, but I understood why we were doing what we did. Our job is to keep the lights on and ensure business as usual. Had someone in the office become affected, those of us who officed from home would need to replace those who were quarantined. We are fortunate that all employees have remained safe and healthy.

Did we become lax with social distancing, hand washing, wearing masks, trips to the grocery store and disinfecting? Who were or are we to believe regarding COVID-19? Did temptation and risk taking get the best of us? Most of us were ready to get out of the house, meet up with friends and family, take a vacation, etc.

It is now October and the COVID-19 cases are once again growing throughout our service territory. Schools are in session and sports have resumed. What precautions can or should each of us take to protect others and ourselves? Should we consider having smaller family gatherings over the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays? These are decisions that many families are already considering.

As 2020 is beginning to wind down, most of us do have much to be thankful for. We have food on the table, a roof over head, businesses that are open, and communities that support those less fortunate. If you want to do something for your community that doesn't take a lot of time or money, consider donating to your local food bank. Non-perishable items are welcomed.

Rolling Hills Electric wishes each of you a safe, healthy, and memorable Thanksgiving 2020.



Linnea Beebe

Bales Receives Scholarship *Continued from page 16A*

that every one of the traits he mentioned, he tied back to youth. Children don't take themselves too seriously, they aren't prideful, and they're willing to learn," Reagan said. "I know that as I move forward in life, I can either sink back into the crowd or I can stand out as a leader. I plan to continue to seize the opportunities that are presented to me, even if they're different than what I'm used to."

Read, upon presenting Reagan with his check, said "Reagan, you have the creativity and determination to do whatever you can dream. On behalf of

Kansas Electric Cooperatives and Rolling Hills Electric, we congratulate you for a job well done."

Rolling Hills Electric Manager Doug Jackson and Linnea Beebe, member services, were also on hand to congratulate Reagan for competing for the trips and for participating in this educational experience offered through the statewide associations of electric cooperatives. Reagan is currently a senior at Osborne High School and plans to study kinesiology and exercise science after graduation.

Happy Thanksgiving

Our offices will be closed Thursday, Nov. 26, and Friday, Nov. 27, in observance of the holiday.

Happy Thanksgiving!





ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE YOUTH TOUR



WASHINGTON, D.C.

JUNE 14-21, 2021



**FREE TRIP &
\$500 SCHOLARSHIP**
APPLY BY DEC. 21, 2020

CONTACT LINNEA BEEBE

785-534-1601 | LBEEBE@ROLLINGHILLS.COOP

COOPERATIVE YOUTH LEADERSHIP CAMP



COLORADO

JULY 16-22, 2021



Now Accepting Applications for 2021 Trips and Scholarships

Attention High School Juniors: Are You Eligible for the Trip of a Lifetime?

- ▶ All high school juniors whose parents or guardians reside on Rolling Hills Electric Cooperative, Inc. lines.
- ▶ Complete and return an entry form at right by Dec. 21, 2020. You may also find the form at www.rollinghills.coop, in the *Kansas Country Living* magazine, from your high school counselor and on Facebook.
- ▶ Contestants will receive an entry packet. Finalists will be chosen from a completed application, resume, open book quiz and short essay.
- ▶ Finalists will be interviewed to determine winners (time and date to be announced).
- ▶ Trip winners are expected to speak at Rolling Hills Electric's Annual Meeting.

Rolling Hills Electric is now accepting applications from high school juniors who are interested in competing for a "trip of a lifetime." In addition to the two trips to be awarded, each recipient will receive a \$500 scholarship upon high school graduation. Parents or guardians must reside on Rolling Hills Electric's power lines. Material packets will be mailed to applicants Dec. 22, 2020.

For an eligible high school junior to enter the competition, the cooperative office should receive the completed form below **BY DEC. 21, 2020**. Submit your application by email to lbeebe@rollinghills.coop. You can also mail or deliver your application to: Rolling Hills Electric Cooperative, Inc., Attn: Linnea Beebe, P.O. Box 339, Beloit, KS 67420.

2021 YOUTH TOUR APPLICATION

Applicant Name _____ Birth Date _____

Address _____

City _____ Zip _____

Student Phone _____ Student E-mail _____

Grade _____ School _____

Name of Parent(s) or Guardian(s) _____

Electric Account # _____

Parent/Guardian(s) Phone _____

Parent/Guardian(s) E-mail _____

I agree that all information supplied in this application is accurate and true.

Applicant Signature _____

The safety of our students and chaperones is our top priority. If the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour or Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp organizers feel that travel is unsafe due to concerns with the coronavirus (or any other acts of terrorism, disaster, civil disorder, or curtailment of transportation facilities), then the trip will be canceled.

Help Us HELP YOU

Rolling Hills Electric would like to remind you that the Ellsworth, Mankato and Belleville phone numbers are no longer in service and the call will not be transferred to Beloit. The two phone numbers that will get you directly into the Beloit office or forwarded to our dispatch phone 24/7 are: 785-534-1601 or 800-530-5572

An older phone book may show the non-working phone numbers. For your convenience, please add Rolling Hills Electric to your contact list on your cell phone. If you already have Rolling Hills in your contact list, verify that one of the two numbers above is showing.

5 Electrical Safety Features to Be Thankful For

Most days, we go about our lives without thinking too much about the many electronic gadgets and electrical safety features that allow us to perform simple tasks at work and home without a second thought. This Thanksgiving, let's take a moment to be thankful for some of the devices that help make our daily tasks safer and more convenient.

For Your Safety: Built-In Devices

GFCIS: Ground fault circuit interrupters are inexpensive electrical devices that can either be installed in your electrical system or built into a power cord to protect you from severe electrical shocks. GFCIs are generally installed where electrical circuits may accidentally come into contact with water, such as kitchens, bath and laundry rooms, outdoors or in the garage. Be sure to test GFCIs monthly to make sure they are working properly.

AFCIS: Arc fault circuit interrupters could potentially prevent more than 50% of electrical fires that occur every year, according to the Consumer Product Safety Commission. These safety devices are typically found within your electrical panel or receptacles in the wall. An arc fault is a dangerous electrical problem caused by damaged, overheated or stressed electrical wiring or devices.

CIRCUIT BREAKERS: Usually found in a garage, basement or laundry room, circuit breaker boxes are an essential safety feature in your home, preventing electrical injuries and fires. Each box is filled with individual circuit breakers designed to 'trip,' or shut itself off when necessary to stop the flow of electricity. Circuits trip for several reasons, in-

cluding overloaded circuits, drawing too much power from one circuit, ground faults, abnormal flow in a circuit, and short circuits when current travels along an unintended path.

Use Them Safely: Convenience Items

DEVICE CHARGERS: Whether for work or personal use, most of us can't go a day without accessing our favorite cell phone, tablet, laptop or other portable essentials. While we rely on our chargers to keep these items running, be sure to treat charging components with care and use them correctly. Here are some safety tips:

- ▶ Personal electronic devices should NOT be placed under pillows or used on or underneath bedding.
- ▶ Do not leave cords plugged in when not in use because little ones or pets who put them in their mouths can get burned or shocked.
- ▶ Do not leave them around when not in use because toddlers might try to insert the wrong end into an electrical outlet and get shocked or burned. Remember to child proof your outlets as well if they are not the tamper resistant versions.

- ▶ Don't use charging devices near water or in damp conditions.
- ▶ Replace original charging components with the same brand and type whenever possible. Using off-brand or generic versions can be dangerous if they are faulty.

EXTENSION CORDS AND MULTI-OUTLET

POWER STRIPS: Extension cords and multi-outlet power strips or devices, while incredibly handy, should always be inspected for damage prior to use. Use them as a temporary fix, not a long-term solution, and use them safely:

- ▶ Plug them directly into an outlet, and not into another extension cord or power strip.
- ▶ If you are using a strip or extension cord outside, make sure it is rated for outdoor use.
- ▶ Never use an item that feels hot or is damaged in any way.
- ▶ Make sure these convenience items (cords and strips) are approved by a reputable independent testing laboratory like UL.
- ▶ When using an extension cord, make sure the wattage rating of the cord and the appliance match.

These are just a few electrical safety items be thankful for this year.

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Keep cold air out to save energy. Seal air leaks around pipes and any gaps around chimneys and unfinished spaces behind cupboards and closets. **Source: energystar.gov**

