

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

**YOUTH TOUR
IS SHAPING
TOMORROW'S
LEADERS
PAGE 2**

**CVEC FIBER
IS AWARD
WINNING!
PAGE 3**

**GENERATOR
SAFETY
PAGE 4**

CANADIAN VALLEY ELECTRICAL

CVEC Offers Juniors a Chance of a Lifetime with Youth Tour Leadership Experience Scholarship

Canadian Valley Electric Cooperative (CVEC) is excited to announce a golden opportunity for high school juniors in and around its service area. As part of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) Youth Tour, CVEC is launching an essay contest, offering two outstanding students the chance to win an all-expense-paid trip to Washington, D.C., June 14 – 20.

NRECA Youth Tour is an unparalleled experience, offering students a chance to dive into the heart of the nation's capital and gain insights into cooperative principles that underpin the electric utility industry. As part of the contest, high school juniors are encouraged to submit essays answering the question, *"If Selected, What Would I be Most Excited to See, and What does it Mean to Me?"*

The two winners of the essay contest will be awarded an all-expense-paid trip to Washington, D.C., where they will join other outstanding students from across the nation. Itinerary for the NRECA Youth Tour includes visits to iconic landmarks such as the U. S. Capitol, the Smithsonian museums, and the Lincoln Memorial. Participants will also engage in educational sessions that highlight the importance of civic engagement and the cooperative model.

CVEC believes in investing in future leaders of its community, and the NRECA Youth Tour essay contest is a testament to this commitment. The cooperative encourages eligible high school juniors to seize this incredible opportunity to showcase their writing skills, explore the nation's capital, and gain a deeper appreciation for the cooperative

principles that shape CVEC's mission and values.

Deadline for essay submissions is 5 p.m., Friday, February 23, 2024.

Don't miss out on this chance of a lifetime – submit your essays today for a shot at an unforgettable experience in Washington, D.C. in June 2024! Visit our website at <https://www.mycvec.coop/youth-programs> for more information.

CVEC Youth Tour Program –

Essay Topic – If Selected, What Would I be Most Excited to See, and What does it Mean to Me?

Deadline – 5 p.m., Friday, February 23, 2024

Youth Tour Dates – June 14-20, 2024





A Message from
Canadian Valley Electric CEO

Gary Highley

The Cooperative Leadership Experience: Youth Tour – Shaping Tomorrow’s Leaders

I love seeing leaders grow and develop, particularly the younger generation, who have a lot of runway to make a measurable impact on society. It is incredible how sometimes a small action can yield a powerful lesson.

A high school senior recently shared how he had learned a valuable leadership lesson from a notable recent alumnus. They had been exchanging leadership experiences and challenges from their Junior Reserve Officers’ Training Corps (JROTC) program. They discussed how the prior year’s staff had created some communication problems that persist today. The alums shared the previous year’s staff was no longer in charge. With that, the senior said he learned a compelling lesson: it’s not our fault, but our problem to solve. Blaming others was only robbing them of the power to solve the issue. He reported he went on to lead one of the most productive staff meetings he had been in during his entire high school JROTC experience as the staff joined to face their issues head-on. Lessons like that are valuable.

This is why Canadian Valley Electric is proud to sponsor the Cooperative Leadership Experience, a.k.a. Youth Tour, a unique opportunity for high school juniors residing on electric cooperative lines to explore the roots of our nation. In addition to learning about the seven cooperative principles during the trip, the students can meet federal legislators one-on-one, allowing participants to actively participate in discussions on governance, democracy, and citizenship. The Cooperative Leadership Experience allows students to explore historical sites linked to the nation’s founding, gaining a deeper appreciation for the country’s history and a sense of civic responsibility. Participants form lasting bonds with like-minded high school juniors, creating a supportive network that lasts well beyond the trip.

At its core, the Cooperative Leadership Experience is a leadership development opportunity, fostering personal and professional growth through engaging activities and exposure to diverse leadership scenarios.

If you have a high school junior in your household, I strongly encourage them to apply. You never know what insight they will return with that could impact their life and the world forever.

Canadian Valley Electric Cooperative
 11277 N. Hwy. 99, Seminole, OK 74868
 35 W. JC Watts Ave. Eufaula, OK 74432
 (405) 382-3680

Website: www.mycvec.coop



Business Hours

Seminole Office -

8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m., Monday - Friday

Eufaula Office -

8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m., Monday - Friday

Seminole Warehouse -

7:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m., Monday - Friday

Board of Trustees

Joe Semtner - District 6

President

Yates Adcock - District 8

Vice-President

Robert Schoenecke - District 2

Secretary

Jesse Snyder - District 3

Treasurer

Steve Marak - District 1

Clayton Eads - District 4

J.P. Duvall - District 7

Matt Goodson - District 5

Gary Highley

Chief Executive Officer

Did You Know?

832 distribution co-ops like CVEC are the foundation of the electric cooperative network. They were built by and serve co-op members in the community with the delivery of electricity and other services..



*Improve Life,
 Serve Community*

CVEC Fiber Honored with Three Awards at OAEC's Member Relations & Communications Conference

CVEC Fiber is proud to announce we have received three prestigious Achieving Marcom Power (AMP) awards at the 2023 Oklahoma Association of Electric Cooperative's (OAEC) Member Relations & Communications conference in November. Kelsey Scott, Digital Marketing Associate, designed and implemented two CVEC Fiber marketing campaigns and a digital initiative that were entered for competition at the conference.

The AMP awards recognize the best communication and marketing efforts by Oklahoma's rural electric cooperatives and are sponsored by OAEC and *Oklahoma Living* magazine. Scott and CVEC Fiber secured three distinguished AMP Awards.

- **Award of Excellence Best Marketing Campaign Broadband Cooperative:** ‘

CVEC Fiber Hits Home’ campaign introducing CVEC Fiber opening service within the town of Seminole.

- **Award of Merit Best Marketing Campaign Broadband Cooperative:** Ramping Up Sign-Ups

- **Award of Merit Best Digital Communication Broadband Cooperative:** CVEC Fiber Radio Ad

“Kelsey had a vision on how to develop a campaign to increase our customer base in specific areas. She made us proud by winning these statewide awards and representing CVEC Fiber so well,” says Shelia Allgood, General Manager of Broadband in CVEC Fiber.

CVEC Fiber has consistently demonstrated a commitment to providing high-quality, reliable, and cutting-edge internet services to its customers, and Kelsey Scott's achievements further underline the cooperative's dedication to excellence in all aspects of its operations.

“I am deeply honored to receive these prestigious AMP Awards from the Oklahoma Association of Electric Cooperatives,” said Scott. “We are committed to delivering the best services and communication to our customers, and these awards inspire us to continue pushing the boundaries of innovation.”

These awards further emphasize CVEC Fiber's unwavering commitment to delivering cutting-edge, reliable internet services, setting a standard for excellence in the industry. As CVEC Fiber looks ahead, these AMP Awards serve as a testament to the cooperative's dedication to innovation and customer-focused communication.



Kelsey Scott

Protect Our Lineworkers

Make Sure Backup Generator has 'Double-Throw' Switch

When the snow starts to fall, many homeowners start thinking about ways to insure they will have heat and lights even if a severe storm passes through. So they buy buck-up power generators.

If you're thinking about getting a generator, take this safety precaution seriously.

During a power outage, electric utility lineworkers - or anyone who touches a downed power line - can be killed if your backup generator is not properly installed. Auxilia-

ry power sources like home generators must be completely isolated from the co-p's lines attached to your meter in order to prevent a catastrophe.

Generators that are not isolated from co-op lines can produce 'backfeed', that is they feed electricity in reverse, back onto those power lines. That is extremely dangerous because linemen working on those lines assume they're dead. In effect, your generator can re-energize a dead wire without any warning to the

lineworker who is about to touch it.

To prevent this, buy a generator with a special switch - it's called a double-throw switch - which is used to prevent your generator from backfeeding through the cooperative's lines and transformers.

To be safe, have an electrician install your new generator or check your system to make certain it's safe for everyone.

ELECTRALITE CLASSIFIED ADS

Classified Ads Must be Submitted to

<https://www.mycvec.coop/submit-an-ad>

Ads must be received by the first of each month



AUTOMOBILES & BIKES

\$60, 405-432-8064.

FARM & RANCH

Small square bales of good, horse-quality, prairie grass hay, stored in barn, \$7/bale, 405-598-5860, 405-826-5320.

16-month-old cross breed Charolais bull, vet check sound, \$2,000; 7' pull-type brush hog, \$350, 405-301-0945.

HOME & LAND

MISCELLANEOUS

Metal bunk bed and mattresses, can text photo, \$175; Troy Bilt 46"-cut riding mower for parts or mechanic, good tires, new belt and blades, \$350 OBO; 10-place setting China dish set, \$45; faux leather love seat,

Rocker Cliner, Dan Roofing, iroll underliner, granite window sill pieces, 4"x4" Angle iron, 405-275-5673.

1/2 Pyrenees, 1/2 Anatolian puppies, born 10-15-23, \$100 each; 2002 1/2-ton Ford 4x4 chassis, \$500; seasoned green firewood; 100-gal. pickup fuel tank, 405-301-0945.

2005 21' pontoon fishing boat, very good interior, 05 pontoon boat 21' 90-hp Mercury 2 stroke motor; fish rig, very good seats and carpet, depth and fish finder, live wells, 2 batts, good top and cover, \$11,000, for more info call 9 to 5 pm leave message, 405 964 5663.

Our *Energize Oklahoma* podcast is taking a break for a few months. Look for it to return later this year!



ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP OF THE MONTH

During winter months, ensure your home is well sealed to reduce the need for excessive heating. Seal air leaks around your home and add insulation where needed to save up to 10% on annual energy bills.

Install weather stripping on exterior doors and apply caulk around windows. Check attic insulation levels and hire a qualified contractor if additional insulation is required.

Source: energystar.gov

