



## Completing the Lineman Apprenticeship

Co-op lineman Ryan Little and Joe Alexander with their certificate of completion from Northwest Lineman College.

Co-op lineman Ryan Little and Joe Alexander recently completed their lineman apprenticeship. The lineman apprenticeship through Northwest Lineman College is a four year program. Upon completion, both Ryan and Joe were promoted to journeymen.

During the program, linemen are required to log a required number of hours for specific tasks on the job as well as complete traditional coursework. Courses cover topics including transformers, underground transmission, substations, and regulators.

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## Illinois Electric Cooperative

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Ryan Little competing in the Lineman's Safety Rodeo.

Along with the coursework, linemen are required to complete climbing school. Climbing school takes place on the Lincoln Land Community College grounds in Springfield. Linemen are mentored throughout the program in areas such as safety and quality of work.

Both Ryan and Joe say their favorite part of being a lineman is working for a small company and getting to serve the members. "It's great that the work we get to do directly impacts the area we live in," said Joe.

Joe began working for the co-op in June of 2009 as an intern while attending Western Illinois University before going full-time in June of 2013. He lives in Carrollton with his wife Emily.

Ryan began working for the co-op in June of 2014 and is a graduate of Illinois College. He lives in Winchester with his wife Megan and their four children.



Joe Alexander competing in the Lineman's Safety Rodeo.



# Youth Day 2017

## March 29, 2017

Youth Day 2017 will be held on March 29, 2017. High school sophomores and juniors will spend the day in Springfield meeting with their state legislators and Secretary of State Jesse White at the State Capitol. Students will also be able to tour the Illinois Supreme Court, the Old State Capitol, and the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum.

Youth Day is designed to introduce young rural leaders to state government. 26 co-ops from across the state are represented at the event.

This event allows four high school students living in a home served by the co-op to win a week long, expenses paid bus trip to the U.S. Capitol in Washington, D.C. as part of the Youth to Washington program.

For more information, please contact your school's guidance counselor, or Ashley Graham at 217-243-8705 by February 27th.

## Like the Co-op on Facebook

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## Tips for Choosing a Secure Password

As cyber security becomes a bigger part of our daily lives, it's important to choose a secure password. Users should choose a unique password for each of his or her online accounts, especially email and online banking. Security experts recommend at least nine characters for a secure password.

Choosing the same password for each online account is like using the same key to lock your home, car, and office – if a criminal gains access to one, all of them are compromised.

It may be less convenient, but picking multiple passwords keeps you safer. If you choose to write your passwords down, be sure to keep them in a safe place out of plain sight.

When selecting a password, try not to use an easy to guess phrase, such as 1234 or *password*. It's best to not use first initial last name, either. It's also best to use a mix of characters, such as letters, numbers, and symbols.

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