



Clinton County Connection

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner 

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Is a power line insulated? (and other myths debunked)

Have you ever wondered why a bird can sit on a live wire or what you should do if a power line is on the ground? Here are some Q-and-As to clear up some common misconceptions concerning power lines, birds on a wire and other conundrums:

What do I do if I see a downed power line?

Vacate the area. Call 9-1-1 to report. Do not return to the area until you are given the go-ahead by authorities.

Can I tell from looking (or listening) if a downed power line is still live?

Absolutely not. A live wire may not spark, arc or make any noise at all.

Where might downed power lines be?

A downed power line might be in the street, ditch or field after a bad storm or car accident. It could also be lurking in flood waters or under debris, trees or other objects after a severe storm.

If a line is on the ground, is it dead?

Once a line is on the ground, it doesn't mean it's dead. There's a chance the line is still energized, which not only means you should not touch it, but also means the

surrounding ground and any metal objects nearby could be energized and extremely dangerous, even deadly.

Why might a power line be down or damaged?

A car accident may cause a line to be hanging down or on the ground; severe weather could damage a pole or line; or in some cases it's caused by another unforeseeable reason, such as a storm-damaged tree or a hungry squirrel.

Why can a bird sit on a power line and not be hurt? Doesn't that mean the line is insulated?

No. Lines are sometimes coated for protection against the elements but still deadly upon contact. A bird or other critters can sit on a power line all day happy as a lark because there is no path to ground. If the animal were to contact the utility pole or other grounded source, it will be electrocuted, just as a person would be under the same circumstances.

Do different kinds of utility lines look different?

Perhaps, but for the most part, the non-utility professional cannot know what kind of line it is and what it carries (electricity, phone service, cable TV and so on) just by looking. You also can't tell how much voltage it is carrying by its appearance.

What if my car comes in contact with a downed power line?

Do not get out. Do not try to drive over it. Call 9-1-1 and wait for utility personnel to de-energize the line. If you smell gas or if there is a fire, exit your car with a solid jump landing on both feet (but don't touch the car at the same time) and **DO NOT WALK**, but hop away.

Can I help someone who has been in an accident involving a downed power line?

No. Do not go near the scene and warn others not to do so. Although our first instinct is often to help, a person running near an energized area could get electrocuted. Contact us at 800-526-7282 with any questions about downed lines. For more information about electrical safety, visit SafeElectricity.org.



In observance of Labor Day, the office will be CLOSED on Monday, September 2, 2019



Youth to Washington

At the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association Annual Meeting in Chicago in 1957, Senator Lyndon B. Johnson addressed the crowd stating, "If one thing goes out of this meeting, it will be sending youngsters to the national capital where they can actually see what the flag stands for and represents." Soon thereafter, Illinois sent a busload of young people to Washington. By 1964, approximately 400 students from 12 states made the trip to D.C. The word of the program continued to spread, and today, more than 1,800 students and chaperones participate in the Youth Tour every year.

The program is stronger than ever and Clinton County Electric Cooperative (CCEC) was proudly represented by two local students on this year's Youth to Washington Tour, held June 14-21. Jessie Cirrincione and Riley Fisher were chosen by a panel of judges, at Youth Day in Springfield to attend this year's Youth to Washington Tour. Jessie and Riley boarded a bus in Mt. Vernon early Friday morning, June 14, and started what was an eye-opening experience by seeing numerous D.C. area attractions and monuments, learning more about electric cooperatives, and creating countless friendships that will last for many years to come.

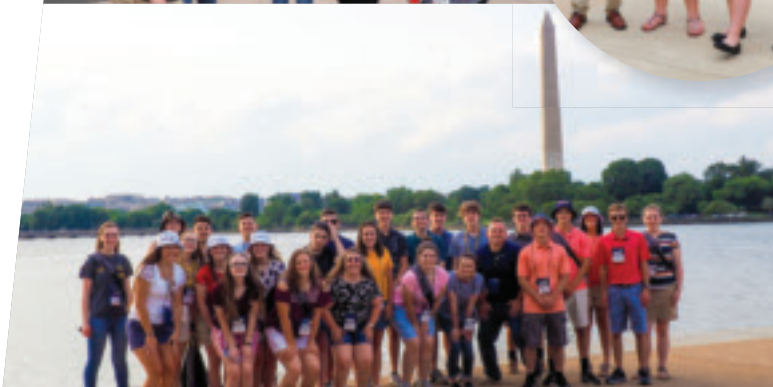


More than 1,800 youth, a record high for the Youth to Washington Tour, from all over the U.S. gathered at the Hyatt Regency Hotel one morning for the Youth Day assembly to hear phenomenal speakers. The students were privileged to hear Keynote speaker Mike Schlappi, who delivered an inspiring message from his wheelchair. Schlappi was accidentally shot at age 14 and doctors told him he would never walk again. Prior to his accident, he was dreaming of a career as a top American athlete. In his message he stated, "Just because you can't stand up, doesn't mean you can't stand out." His message was inspiring for the young and old. The week in Washington, D.C. was action-packed with 62 students representing cooperatives from the entire state of Illinois. The students visited historical sites including

Arlington National Cemetery, the Holocaust Museum, the U.S. Capitol and a variety of memorials. Among fun activities the students enjoyed were the Smithsonian and an assembly of Youth Tour participants from across the nation. A highlight of the trip was the opportunity to meet our U.S. Representatives and Senators. Jessie and Riley were able to personally meet with Congressmen John Shimkus along with U.S. Senator Tammy Duckworth.

The Youth Program allows today's students to experience government first-hand by visiting Capitol Hill and seeing the historical sites in Washington, D.C. Jessie and Riley, along with all the students from Illinois who attended, did not want this awesome week to end. They made long-lasting friendships and will remember their week of learning more about our wonderful nation for a very long time.

Each year CCEC sponsors two students to attend this week-long all-expense paid educational trip. Children of board members and employees are eligible to attend at their own expense. The program is kicked off each year in March or April with Youth Day in Springfield and followed by the trip to Washington, D.C. in June. Information about next year's trip will be available in the December issue of our newsletter or can be found on our website at www.cceci.com under the Youth Programs tab.



Considering Solar? Call us first!

As interest in “green” energy and ways to save money on utility bills continue to grow, some cooperative members may be considering the installation of a solar array.

Since these types of systems have the capability of returning electricity back to the electric grid, there are some major safety considerations to sort through before a system is installed.

Before deciding to buy a solar array, examine the economics to determine if such a system will lower your monthly electricity costs. If you do decide to install a solar array, contact our office as early as possible in the process.

A CCEC representative will provide information on our interconnection process and policies, as well as answer any questions you may have. That way, you and your installer will have the information needed as you progress with your system.

For more information on CCEC policies and requirements, please contact the office Monday through Friday, between 7 a.m. and 4 p.m. at 800-526-7282.



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