

Apprentices Complete Climbing School

Apprentice linemen Brent Taylor and Jeff Roach headed to Springfield in August for climbing school. This two-week course is recognized by the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Apprenticeship and Training; and is part of the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives' Illinois Rural Electric Apprenticeship Program.

Hands-on training included:

- Proper technique of climbing poles up to 60 feet
- Testing to include a 65-foot pole climb, 45-foot H-structure pole climb and 55-foot transition pole climb
- Proper use and care of fall arrest systems
- Proper use of fall arrest i.e., secondary safety while transitioning on pole
- Becoming familiar hot line tools
- Practicing pole top rescue and be able to complete it in less than 4 minutes
- Basic "on the pole" rigging using knots
- Handline use and care



Brent Taylor (left) and Jeff Roach (right) are pictured at the climbing school training grounds in Springfield, Ill.



Brent climbing the safety and training pole at the Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative office in Dongola.

 **Southern Illinois
Electric Cooperative**

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 