



Shane L. Larson,
Chief Executive Officer



More Power to You

ROCK ENERGY IS FOCUSED ON THE FUTURE THROUGH YOUTH PROGRAMS

First and foremost, I would like to wish all of you a very **HAPPY NEW YEAR!** Just like last year, and for many years before that, Rock Energy Cooperative is very excited in 2022 to once again highlight the value of cooperative membership to young people who are our future members and our future leaders.

This year we are again offering scholarships of \$1,000 to graduating high school seniors who enroll at an accredited school. Students whose parents or guardians are active members of REC are eligible. Our scholarship committee judges applicants based on general merit, cooperation, leadership abilities, financial need, and class ranking.

Also, for our Illinois members, we promote the Thomas H. Moore Illinois Electric Cooperatives (IEC) Memorial Scholarship Program, which awards academic scholarships on an annual basis.

We believe in the cooperative business model and we think it is important to educate and inform our next generation about this model. As such, we provide and sponsor other programs that benefit youth as well, such as the annual Youth Tour to Washington, D.C. (see page 18C) and the Youth Leadership Congress (see page 18B) that helps young co-op members develop strong leadership and presentation skills and gain a broader understanding of energy cooperatives. The Youth Leadership Congress event was virtual in 2021, but plans are to hold it as an in-person event this year. For those members who weren't aware, funding for Youth Tour, college scholarships, and other youth programs comes from the Federated Youth Foundation, which receives money from unclaimed capital credits and other contributions.

We are honored to serve your energy needs and we look forward to hearing your suggestions in 2022 and beyond.

Pictured here is the 2019 Youth Tour group in Washington, D.C.



2022 YOUTH LEADERSHIP CONGRESS SCHEDULED FOR JULY 12-14



Pictured above are the 2019 Youth Leadership Congress attendees.

WECA's 2022 Youth Leadership Congress (YLC) event is set to be held in-person July 12-14.

This is a unique opportunity for high school students of families that are Rock Energy members to develop leadership skills while learning the purpose, operation, and scope of cooperative businesses.

This is a by-teens, for-teens cooperative leadership conference that is planned and developed by a youth board elected at the previous year's event.

Attendees elected to the youth board will not only plan the next conference; they also have the opportunity to attend the annual National Rural Electric Cooperative Association National Youth Tour in Washington, D.C., the following June.

The event will be held on the campus of the University of Wisconsin-Stout.

What will you do at the WECA YLC?

- See what makes the cooperative business model different and successful, then apply this knowledge to fun and challenging cooperative activities.
- Identify and learn how to develop your own leadership skills.
- Discuss cooperative careers with industry professionals.
- Be entertained and challenged by highly acclaimed motivational speakers who understand teens.
- Talk about topics that are relevant in your life.

WHO SHOULD APPLY

High school students of families that are Rock Energy members. Students active in their school and community.

HOW TO REGISTER

Sign up at: www.weca.coop/youth-education-2021-22

Register by June 1, 2022

Register soon to secure your spot!

WHEN HEATING YOUR HOME ▶ ▶ ▶ ▶

With colder weather now upon us, many Rock Energy members will turn to space heaters to stay warm. Heating equipment is one of the leading causes of home fire deaths and space heaters account for four out of five home heating fire deaths, according to the National Fire Protection Association.

ALWAYS KEEP SAFETY IN MIND



Here are some safety tips for heating your home:

- Have heating equipment and chimneys cleaned and inspected annually by a qualified professional.
- Keep anything that can burn at least 3 feet away from heating equipment, like the furnace, fireplace, wood stove, or portable space heater.
- Portable space heaters should be turned OFF if you leave the room and before going to bed.
- Install carbon monoxide detectors to avoid carbon monoxide poisoning.
- Never use an oven to heat your home.

Electric heaters (portable) safety tips:

- Place them on a solid, flat surface, away from high-traffic areas and doorways.
- Use and purchase heaters with an automatic shut off so if they are tipped over they will shut off.
- Plug power cords directly into outlets and never into an extension cord.
- Inspect for cracked or damaged, broken plugs or loose connections; replace before using.

Remember, space heaters should have a safe zone around them (at least three feet). Never leave a space heater on when you are not home. Any space heater should be maintained and tested every year before it's used. Do not plug a space heater into an extension cord or power strip. Lastly, make sure the smoke alarms in your home are operational.

NRECA YOUTH TOUR HEADS TO WASHINGTON DC

Each year, cooperatives from throughout the U.S. sponsor young people for participation in the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association's Youth Tour in Washington, D.C. The 2022 event will be held June 18-24.



ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE YOUTH TOUR

In June 2019 (the last time the event was held), youth delegates from Wisconsin and Illinois electric cooperatives joined roughly 2,000 additional youth delegates from across the nation for the annual event. This is a great opportunity for our youth members to travel to Washington, D.C. to explore monuments and museums, meet with members of Congress, and make lifelong friends with other students from across the country.

For details and to register, go to: www.cooperativemyouthtour.com

REMINDER

KEEP METERS & PIPES CLEAR OF SNOW

Rock Energy Cooperative workers are always careful on the job, but they appreciate clear paths to meters, transformers, and other co-op equipment on your property. Keep firewood, snowdrifts, and other obstacles away from meters and other equipment. This will ensure a safe environment for workers.

Remember to clear snow away from furnace intake and exhaust pipes. These pipes on the outside of your house are sometimes just a few inches off the ground and can be buried by snowdrifts.

If snow covers part of any pipe(s), your furnace probably will continue to work, but the exhaust could begin to back up into your home. That exhaust contains carbon monoxide and other harmful gases. High levels of carbon monoxide in your home can lead to sickness and even cause death. When exposing the meter and pipes, avoid using a snow blower. Instead, gently remove snow and ice from the area with your hands or a shovel.

Shane Larson, CEO

P.O. Box 1758, 2815 Kennedy Rd., Janesville, WI 53547
P.O. Box 126, 15229 Willowbrook Rd., South Beloit, IL 61080
866-752-4550

Jonas Berberich, Editor



**ROCK ENERGY
COOPERATIVE**
Empowering Members Since 1936