

JAMUP

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A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

Five reasons we love serving our members



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Director of HR &
Administrative Services

It's February, the month of love. Valentine's Day is just around the corner, and at Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative (SIEC), we love making a positive difference in the lives of our member-owners and the communities we serve.

Valentine's Day may seem like an observance originally created by a greeting card company, but over time, it's become a widely celebrated day generating millions of dollars spent on flowers, candy

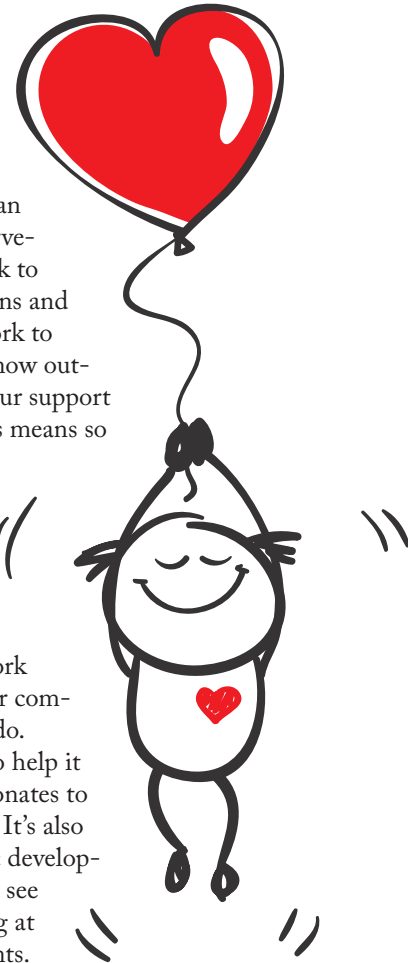
and of course, greeting cards professing our love. But Valentine's Day isn't just for the lovebirds. It's also the perfect time to let our friends, family, co-workers and other special people in our lives know we care about them—with or without a store-bought greeting card. *Rosa Delacruz*

So, in that vein, we've created our list of top five reasons why we love serving you, the member-owners of SIEC.

1. **We love serving our member-owners because without you, the co-op wouldn't exist.** Our purpose is to provide you with reliable, responsible and safe electricity. Simply put, SIEC exists to serve you. That's why we were formed in 1938—to bring power to our local area when for-profit utilities would not.
2. **You enable us to complete our mission by supporting our efforts to give back.** A major part of our mission is to serve our community and look after the greater good. With your assistance, we're able to help members of our community through programs such as food and school supply drives, safety presentations, and scholarships funding for local students.
3. **Members of our co-op also serve on the board of directors.** They provide guidance for setting co-op priorities and helping make big decisions. Because our board members live in the area, they're able to serve as the pulse of the larger community and identify immediate and long-term needs of the cooperative and membership.

4. **You help us get it right. SIEC members are great about keeping us in the know.** We do our best to avoid power outages, but Mother Nature can occasionally throw us a curveball; our members are quick to report any power disruptions and are patient as our crews work to safely restore power. We know outages are frustrating, and your support as we work through storms means so much to our employees.

5. **You and other SIEC members make up the community we serve—and for us, it's all about community.** Our employees live and work here too and care about our community the same way you do. We're invested and work to help it thrive. That's why SIEC donates to local charities and schools. It's also why we invest in economic development, and why you'll often see our employees volunteering at schools and charitable events.



As a co-op, our mission is to responsibly and safely provide services to empower our members and communities. We hope that you view SIEC not just as your electric utility provider, but as a local business with heart. We love being a part of this community, and hope you feel the same way too!



Win a trip to Washington D.C.!

Youth Day 2022

March 29, 2022
Springfield, Illinois

Get a firsthand look at democracy in action! Meet your elected representatives during the Illinois Electric and Telephone Cooperatives Youth Day at the State Capitol. You may even win a trip to Washington, D.C.!



Youth Tour 2022

June 17-24, 2022
Washington, D.C.

The "Youth to Washington" tour gives a few lucky students the chance to see the White House and chat with key members of Congress. Spend a week this summer in our nation's capital visiting historic sites, including the Supreme Court!

Contact your local cooperative for more information.



**Southern Illinois
Electric Cooperative**

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

Youth to Washington



Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative wants to encourage high school students to learn more about government and their role in it ... and provide a select group of student leaders with a chance to get an up-close look at government in action.

We are pleased to sponsor the "Youth to Washington" and "Youth to Springfield" programs again this spring/summer. Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative and cooperatives across the state have sponsored these programs for more than 60 years to introduce students to the government and the political process. **Sandra Powles** Today, many "alumni" of these programs work in state or federal government or have gone on to serve as elected officials. Two retired members of the Illinois General Assembly are "alumni" of our programs.

Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative will sponsor two (2) junior students from high schools within our service area on an all-expense paid bus trip to Springfield on Tuesday, March 29, 2022. During the day the students and their counterparts from other Illinois high schools will meet their elected senators and representatives at the Capitol and learn first-hand about the workings of state government.

SIEC will also sponsor these same (2) students on a weeklong, all-expense paid trip to Washington, D.C. on June 17-24, 2022. During the week in the nation's capital, the Illinois student contingent will hopefully meet with Senators Dick Durbin and Tammy Duckworth. The U.S. Representatives will meet with students for a luncheon while on Capitol Hill. In addition to meeting those who represent their region, they will also get to visit many historical sites, museums, and memorials.

Some of the trip highlights will include:

Youth to Springfield

- Meet with Legislators at Illinois State Capitol
- Co-Op 101 Discussion
- Youth Day Luncheon
- Tour of Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum
- Tour the Old State Capitol

Youth to Washington

- Visit Civil War Battlefield Site
- Arlington Cemetery – Changing of the Guard
- Youth Leadership Council Election & Meeting
- Visit Devil's Den & Gettysburg Address Site
- Tour of George Washington's Mount Vernon
- Supreme Court Lecture
- Lincoln Memorial Tour
- Visit the Korean War, World War I & II, and Vietnam Veterans Memorials
- Plus many more exciting tours, events & historical sites

We encourage all high school juniors to apply, both members and non-members. Applications must be completed in full and submitted no later than February 11, 2022. **Larry E. Rendleman** For any questions regarding eligibility, application, or details of either trip please contact our Director of Member Services, Brent Goforth at 618-827-3555 ext. 208, or by email at bgoforth@siec.org.

Member prize

In this issue of the JAMUP, we printed the names of three SIEC members who are eligible to receive a \$10 credit toward their utility bill. If you find your name printed in this center section and it's not part of the story, call Brent Goforth with your account number at **800-762-1400** to claim your prize.

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Office hours: 8 a.m. — 4 p.m.

www.siec.coop



GINGERBREAD CONTEST RESULTS

Congratulations to the SIEC 2021 Gingerbread Contest Winner - Kaysee Benefield, 11. Here are some of our other entries! Thank you to everyone who participated!

