



*WIEC Youth Tour
Representative
Alexis Lucie*

Don't miss your chance!

Deadline to apply is Feb. 17, 2023.

Youth Day – Springfield – March 29, 2023

Youth Tour – Washington, D.C. – June 16-23, 2023

Western Illinois Electrical Coop. continues to encourage high school students to learn more about government and their role in it by sponsoring the Youth Day and Youth to Washington events. **7512-17**

Here's how it works: WIEC will award the top six entrants an all-expense-paid trip to Springfield, Ill., as part of the Youth Day event, to visit the Illinois State Capitol on March 29, 2023. The group will get to see their state government in action, up close and personal. One of these six students will then be awarded the trip to Washington, D.C., later in the year.

To enter the contest, students just need to complete a simple application. The application can be found on our website at wiec.net or you may contact our office directly at 217-357-3125 or 800-576-3125 to have us send you one another way. The deadline to apply is Feb. 17, 2023.



524 North Madison | P.O. Box 338
Carthage, IL 62321
www.wiec.net | 800-576-3125

OFFICE HOURS

8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Monday - Friday

BUSINESS OFFICE

217-357-3125

TO REPORT AN OUTAGE

800-576-3125

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MAP LOCATION CONTEST

Every month we are printing four members' map location numbers in the newsletter. If you find your map location number call the WIEC office by the 25th of the following month, tell us where it is and we will give you a \$10.00 bill credit. Keep on reading the WIEC News.



Map Location Winners – December issue

James & Pranom Sewell

Congratulations!

Welcome new members

Jason Carnes
Ashley & Jeremy Hank
Raylynn Hindbaugh

Heather & Stephen
Hogenson
Alex McClintock &
Megan Charity

Ethan Prickett
Tanner Ramsey
Brent Suter
Eugene Taylor

**November
2022**

**Energy Efficiency
Tip of the Month**

Do you have a home office? Set equipment like printers and scanners to automatically switch to sleep or energy-saver mode when not in use. In addition to saving energy, the equipment will stay cooler, which will help extend its life. 6617-18

Another way to save in the home office is to use energy efficient lamps for task lighting. Small lamps use less energy than whole-room lighting.





Beat the peak

If you look around your home, you likely have more devices and equipment that require electricity than ever before. Our connected lives are increasingly dependent on more electricity to function. At the same time, as demand for electricity rises, Western Illinois Electrical Coop. must do our best to deliver an uninterrupted 24/7 power supply — regardless of market conditions or other circumstances.

As you would expect based on your family's habits, electricity use fluctuates throughout the day based on consumer demand. Western Illinois Electrical Coop. must be able to provide enough electricity to meet the energy needs of all members during times of highest energy use or "peak hours." **582-22** These peak times are typically in the morning as people start their day and in the evening as people return to their homes.

What you may not know is that electric utilities including WIEC typically pay more for electricity — either from a

power plant or from another utility with excess power — during those morning and evening "energy rush hours." In addition, the demand for electricity is even higher when it's especially cold outside, when heating systems must run longer to warm our homes.

If the "peak times" concept is a bit puzzling, here's an easy way to think about it. It's similar to a major concert. We know costs go up when there is strong demand for tickets (or electricity), and both are subject to the basic economic laws of supply and demand. When a lot of people want the same thing, it's more expensive for the co-op. When they don't, it's cheaper — like a bargain matinee or an "early bird" special at a restaurant.

During peak periods when the cost to produce and purchase power is higher, we encourage you to take simple steps to save energy, such as turning your thermostat down a few notches, turning off unnecessary lights and waiting to use large appliances during off-peak times.

You can also save energy by plugging electronics and equipment such as computers, printers and TVs into a power strip and switching it off during peak hours. If you have a programmable thermostat, consider adjusting the settings downward slightly during peak periods. When we all work together to reduce energy use during periods of high electricity demand, we can relieve pressure on the grid and save a little money along the way.

Another benefit of reduced usage is a lower amount due on your monthly bill. Reducing the peak impacts the power-supply cost to every co-op member. This is particularly noticeable as energy costs have risen across the U.S. Collectively, everyone conserving energy and making small changes can truly make a difference.

Remember, taking simple steps to save energy throughout the day and shifting energy-intensive chores to off-peak hours is a smart choice for you *and* our community.

Be prepared: five tips to make your home more secure

These days, soaking in daily (or hourly) news can make the world feel like a scary place. We have home security systems, smart doorbells and smart locks, which are good things. At the other end of the spectrum, our close-knit communities can feel safe, which can lead to complacency. Many of us can recall growing up in a home where the doors were never locked, and it felt like everybody knew everybody.

In either case, assessing your home's overall security (or lack thereof) is a good idea. Here are five safety tips to help make your home more secure:



1. Assess entry

points. Take a tour of the outside of your home and think like a burglar. Consider which windows and doors would be easy to break or climb through. Then, look through the windows and see if expensive items are on display. Make sure each window and door locks and draw curtains or close blinds when you are not home.

2. Lock second-floor windows and doors. “Second-story men” are burglars who prefer to break into a home on an upper story because they know that most homeowners do not tend to lock upstairs windows and doors (e.g., the door off a deck). **561-46** Be sure to lock them before you leave. In addition, lock up any ladders you keep outside.

3. Lock the door to the garage. Although it is easy to lock when you are inside your house but more of a pain to unlock when returning home, always lock the door between your garage and your home. Many people do not lock this door when they are away since

the garage door is shut. However, a garage door is relatively easy to open. Home invaders can simply pry it open or use a factory-setting opener.

4. Update your garage code. Change your garage code at random intervals instead of on a predictable schedule, such as when the clock changes due to daylight saving time. (Moving the clock up or back an hour is a great time to check the batteries in smoke detectors and carbon monoxide alarms, however.)

5. Do not forget sliding doors. A bar inserted at the base of a sliding door is an inexpensive safeguard. This ensures that sliding glass windows cannot be opened or jimmied without breaking the glass. This will frustrate invaders and the sound of breaking glass can buy you time to call for help.

Taking the time to think like a burglar and check your home's entry points can help keep you and your family safe.