

JAMUP

published by Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative, Dongola, Illinois

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner 

Youth To Washington Tour (June 14-21, 2013) and scholarship opportunity

About Youth To Washington

Rural Electric Cooperatives have been sending youth to our nation's Capitol to meet congressional leaders and historic sites for over 40 years. To date, over 50,000 students have participated in this unique program. Students on the tour learn about electric cooperatives, American history and our government. For many, this trip becomes a springboard into a rewarding career of governmental service. While on the trip, you will visit historic Washington sites and memorials, visit the nation's Capitol -- visit with Illinois House and Senate leaders and cruise the Potomac.

Who may apply

High school juniors who attend a public, private or home school in the service area of Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative (SIEC).

Cost, transportation and meals

There is no cost to the student other than incidental expenditures for souvenirs or snacks. All transportation and meals are provided by SIEC.

Selection process

An independent selection committee will score each completed application and choose two winners.



Scholarship incentive

In addition to receiving this all expense paid, educational trip to Washington D.C., each winner will receive a \$1,000 scholarship.

Coordination

Youth to Washington is coordinated by the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA), the Association of Illinois Electric

Cooperatives (AIEC) and local Illinois rural electric and telephone cooperatives.

Application must be received by February 28, 2013. Please go to www.siec.coop to download an application or speak to your high school guidance counselor. Or, call Jerri Schaefer at 1-800-762-1400 to receive an application by mail.

JOHNSON • ALEXANDER • MASSAC • UNION • PULASKI • POPE

Should you do-it-yourself?

Know when to call a professional

Safety should ALWAYS be the foremost concern for anyone who is working on or around electricity. It is critical to recognize and distinguish between those repairs that you are qualified to undertake and those that only a professional electrician should handle.

Do-it-yourself safety tips

It is recommended that you always contact a qualified, licensed electrician to perform any electrical work in your home.

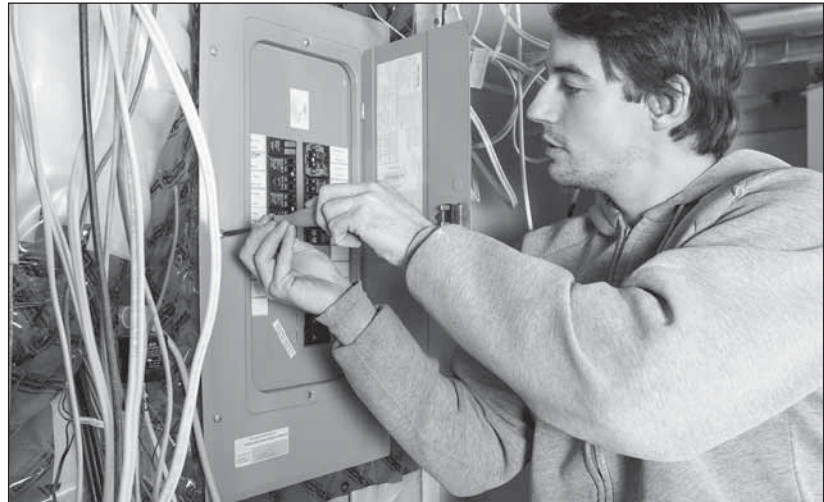
If you do decide to undertake a basic home electrical project, consider the following important safety tips:

- Always turn off the power to the circuit you plan to work on by switching off the circuit breaker in the main service panel.
- Be sure to test wires before you touch them to make sure that the power has been turned off. Test from the black wires to both the grounded box and the white wires, and test from the white wires to the grounded box.
- Never touch plumbing or gas pipes when performing a do-it-yourself electrical project.
- Make sure you are not standing on a damp floor.
- Be sure to unplug any lamp or appliance before working on it.
- Take an active role in understanding the condition of your current electrical system, its capacity, limitations, and potential hazards.

Is a permit or inspection required?

Electrical permits & inspections

Many state and local laws require that a permit be obtained prior to the installation of electrical wiring or devices, and that an inspection be performed to ensure that the work was performed safely and meets applicable code requirements.



Projects that require a permit include:

- Adding or extending a new circuit and/or wiring for central air conditioning, a swimming pool, or a hot tub
- Installing and/or adding a receptacle or light fixture where one did not already exist
- Installing and/or adding a new electrical panel
- Restoring electrical service after an interruption caused by a hazardous condition
- Wiring or re-wiring any new structure such as a house, garage or shed

Permits are generally not mandated for minor repairs, but work must comply with the version of the National Electrical Code that is recognized by the state or city in which you live.

Projects that do not require a permit may include:

- Replacing a receptacle where one already exists
- Replacing a faulty circuit breaker with the same size/type
- Replacing or changing a light fixture
- Installing a phone or coax cable for cable television
- If you hire an electrician or contractor to perform work at your home, be sure to confirm that he/she has obtained the appropriate permits, and request an inspection once the work is complete. This protects your family against risk of electrocution and electrical fires—and it is the law!

JOHNSON • ALEXANDER • MASSAC • UNION • PULASKI • POPE

What is energy efficient lighting?

Energy efficient lighting

Today, lighting accounts for nearly 20 percent of a typical home's energy bill. Fortunately, there is a way to dramatically cut down your household energy costs while improving safety at the same time.

CFLs are estimated to cut our national electric bill by over \$10 billion annually.

Standard incandescent light bulbs will soon no longer be available. The Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 requires light bulbs to be 70 percent more efficient beginning in 2012 which means that CFLs will become more widely used.

Compact fluorescent lamps (CFLs)

Compact fluorescent light bulbs (CFLs) use 75 percent less energy than a standard incandescent light bulb and last up to ten times longer. In addition to cutting your home energy costs, CFLs also produce 75 percent less heat—making them a much safer option for your home as well.

CFLs contain an extremely small amount of mercury – about as much as would fit on the tip of a ball point pen. However, they still offer a net environmental benefit. In fact, four to five times more mercury is emitted when powering a standard incandescent light bulb than a CFL.



How do I clean up a broken CFL?

Cleanup and disposal of CFLs

Many states still allow CFLs to be discarded with normal garbage. However, recycling your CFL is a far more environmentally-friendly alternative. Stores such as The Home Depot and IKEA take back used, unbroken CFLs at no cost.

Unless a CFL breaks, the mercury is fully contained within the bulb. Even if the CFL does break, the majority of the mercury will remain with the lamp fragments.

Instructions for cleaning up a broken CFL

1. Ventilate the room.
2. Scoop up glass fragments and powder using stiff paper or cardboard and seal in a plastic bag. *Junior V. Sullivan*
3. Use duct tape to pick up any fragments or powder.
4. Immediately place all clean up materials in an outdoor trash container and wash your hands.
5. Discard any clothing or bedding that comes in direct contact with broken glass or powder from inside the bulb. Washing tainted items may cause mercury fragments in the clothing to contaminate the machine and/or pollute sewage.

To learn more about CFLs, visit the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency official website at www.epa.gov.

JOHNSON • ALEXANDER • MASSAC • UNION • PULASKI • POPE

Illinois Country Living • February 2013 • 16c

Retirements



Lamar Houston of Tamms dedicated 40 years to our co-op and its members. He began in the Forestry Department and retired as a Utility Serviceman.

Lamar plans to spend more time with his wife Connie, children Derek, Kimberlee and Leslie, and grandchild Kourtney. He will also be volunteering at St. Francis Medical Center and involved in several community activities.

Lamar states, "Thank you to all of the employees and members of SIEC who have supported me over the years. I appreciate all of the friendships."

Congratulations!

Pamela Bierstedt of Jonesboro was hired in 1995 as Clerk. She advanced to Payroll Clerk then to Member Services Representative in 2003. She is married to Duane and they have one son Brandon (wife Paula) and a grandchild, Presley.

Pamela states, "I have enjoyed all facets of my positions at the Co-op, especially my last nine years of serving customers with SouthWater, Inc."



Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative Board of Directors

Carole J. Kelley (President) Johnson Co.
 G. Robert Inman (Vice President)..... Pulaski Co.
 William E. Littrell (Secretary-Treasurer)..... Union Co.
 Larry A. Douglas Massac Co.
 David Martin Massac Co.
 Scott Miller Alexander Co.
 Richard D. Moss Alexander Co.
 Dale E. Taake Pulaski Co.
 Scott L. Ury Union Co.
 Ronald E. Osman (Attorney)

Manager Larry Lovell * Editor Jerri Schaefer

For Outages Call:
800-762-1400 * 618-827-3555



Southern's office will be closed Monday, February 18th for Presidents' Day.



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 Jerri with your account number at **800-762-1400** to claim your prize.

Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative

7420 U.S. Highway 51 South • P.O. Box 100 • Dongola, Illinois 62926
 618-827-3555 • Office hours: 8 a.m. — 4 p.m. • Web address: www.siec.coop

JOHNSON • ALEXANDER • MASSAC • UNION • PULASKI • POPE