



Mike Smith
President and CEO




**MEMORIAL
DAY**
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OFFICE CLOSED
MONDAY, MAY 27

Leaders of tomorrow represent their co-op on Youth Day

For more than 60 years, the electric and telephone cooperatives of Illinois have given tomorrow's leaders the opportunity to learn from today's public officials. On March 20, more than 200 students from across rural Illinois represented 25 co-ops during Youth Day, including 10 students from McDonough Power and McDonough Telephone cooperatives. **5310D7-260A**

"Youth Day gives students across the state an up-close look at democracy in action as they meet their elected representatives in Springfield," said Baylee Flowers, legal and government relations coordinator at the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives. "State senators and



representatives have the opportunity to inspire and encourage the leaders of tomorrow during this annual event."

In addition to meeting elected officials, the students also learned more about their electric or telephone cooperative's role in their own communities and had the opportunity to tour the Illinois State Capitol and the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum.

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Do not overlook overhead power lines

It can be easy to overlook things that we see every day, including overhead power lines. However, failure to notice overhead lines can be deadly. If you or an object you are touching contacts or gets too close to a power line, you could be seriously injured or killed.

Overhead power lines require 10 feet of clearance in all directions. This distance rule applies to the power lines draped from pole to pole that line roads (distribution lines), as well as the drop-down lines that service homes or other structures. **644B1-606A**

If your job requires you to operate equipment in the vicinity of large transmission lines and towers, they require even more clearance than distribution and drop-down lines. That clearance is determined by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA). OSHA mandates line clearance distances for all types of power lines.

Be mindful of overhead power lines when completing the following tasks:

Home maintenance

Always be aware of the location of power lines, particularly when using long tools, such as ladders, pool skimmers and pruning poles. Lower long tools and equipment before moving or transporting them. Other safety tips include:

- Carry ladders and other long items horizontally whenever possible.
- Be careful when working on or around your roof.
- Never go on a roof in windy or bad weather.

Yard work

When trimming trees, do not allow yourself or trimmers to come within 10 feet of overhead power lines, including service lines to your home or outbuilding. Also:

- Do not trim trees near power lines; instead, leave this to certified line clearance tree trimmers.
- Do not use water or blower extensions to clean gutters near electric lines.

Farming

Review power line locations and other potential electrical hazards with all workers at morning safety meetings. Equipment that could get too close or contact a power pole or line includes sprayer tips, tall equipment, dump trucks, augers and other extensions.

At work

Follow all OSHA distance requirements when operating dump trucks, cranes, concrete pump truck extensions and when working on a roof or in a bucket.

Other reminders

- Do not come within 50 feet of a downed or damaged power line. Warn others to stay away. Call 911 to report it.
- Never climb trees near power lines. Even if the power lines are not touching the tree, they could come in contact when weight is added to the branch.

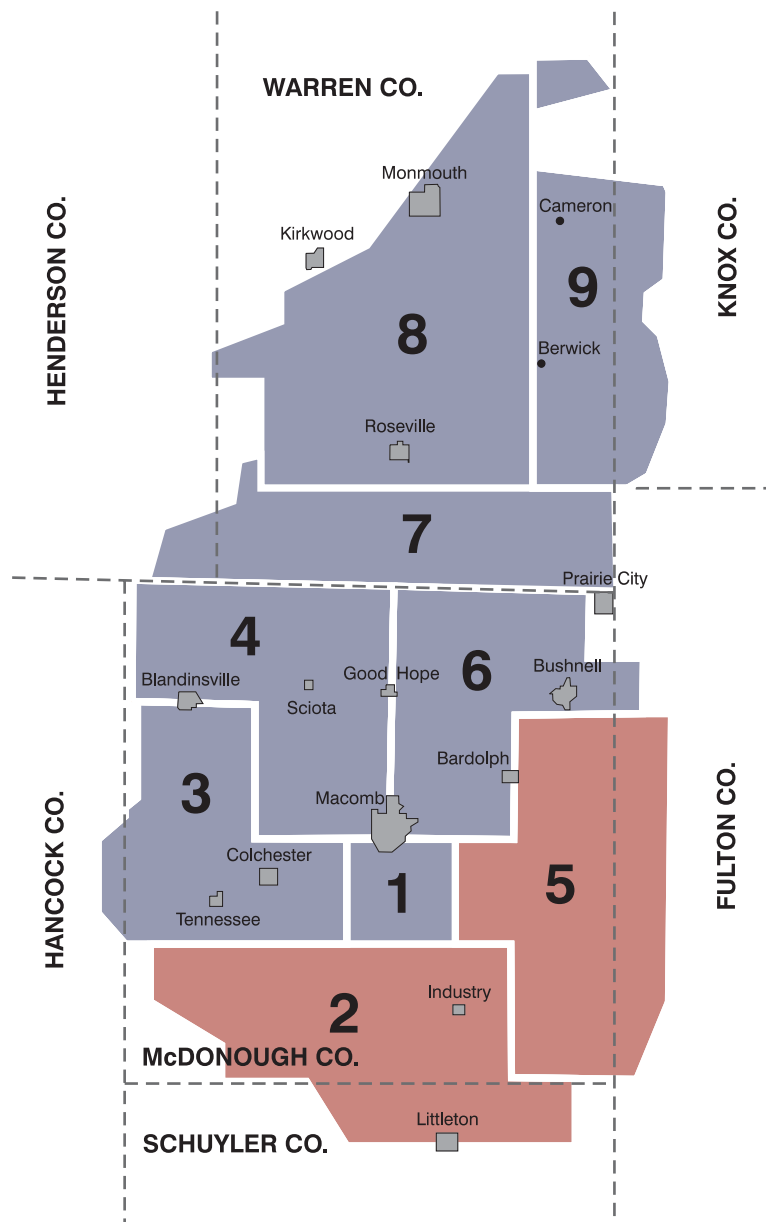
Look up and look out for overhead power lines. Contact can happen in an instant. For additional electrical safety tips, go to SafeElectricity.org.

Seeking two directors

The Board of Directors of McDonough Power Cooperative is currently looking for interested candidates to serve as a Director representing the cooperative membership of District 2 and District 5 due to the retirement of two long-time board members. The successful candidates will be elected by a ballot vote of the membership at the 2024 McDonough Power annual meeting scheduled for August 7th, 2024 at The Crossing Church located on West Jackson Street in Macomb. The Board welcomes a diverse set of candidates and encourages those interested to refer to the information online at mcdonoughpower.com/board-positions or to call the cooperative during normal business hours for more information.

The following is a brief listing of some of the requirements to be a director serving McDonough Power Cooperative:

- The candidate must be a member of the cooperative, in good standing and primarily reside in one of the corresponding townships:
 - **District 2** includes all of Lamoine, Bethel and Industry Townships in McDonough County and parts of Brooklyn, Littleton and Oakland Townships in Schuyler County.
 - **District 5** is composed of the East half of Scotland and all of New Salem, Eldorado and Mound Townships in McDonough County. A small part of Harris, Farmers and Vermont Townships in Fulton County.
- The candidate must have been a member of McDonough Power for a minimum of two years prior to election.
- The candidate must not be employed by the cooperative or financially interested in a competing enterprise or business selling electric energy or supplies to the Cooperative.



A cooperative director is expected to:

- Attend all monthly board meetings, which generally last two or more hours.
- Attend all special board meetings, committee meetings, and annual meeting of members.
- Attend all board meetings of other organizations for which he or she is a director representing McDonough Power Cooperative.
- Complete the NRECA Credentialed Cooperative Director training during the first three-year term of office. **4319A1C-1208A**

For a candidate to be placed on the ballot, a petition of fifteen names comprised of members of McDonough Power shall be submitted to the cooperative office a minimum of thirty days prior to the annual meeting at which time the Secretary of the board shall post all candidates names. The final determination that a candidate meets all the qualifications as written in the bylaws shall be made by the Board of Directors of McDonough Power and the Cooperative attorney.

As previously stated, please refer to mcdonoughpower.com/board-positions or contact the Cooperative office for additional information.

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State Representatives Dan Swanson (R-71) and Norine Hammond (R-94) met with the students representing McDonough Power and McDonough Telephone. These students included Scott Cousins of Macomb High School, Adriana Eveland and Sara Avalos of Rushville-Industry High School, Ella Bernhardt and Lily Hintze of United High School, Lorelai Mangold of Rushville-Industry High School, Celena Mangalaraj of Macomb High School, and Kaden Little and Abby Starbuck of West Prairie High School.

During lunch, Illinois Department of Natural Resources Director Natalie Phelps Finnie addressed the students. She discussed her background as a healthcare provider and how she got into politics. She encouraged them to follow their passions, live confidently and work hard.

“You’re embarking upon adulthood,” Phelps Finnie said to the students. “You can do anything you want to do. I just ask that you come to adulthood with the right posture and attitude. ... Don’t come with a sense of entitlement that everything is owed to you. Work for it. Earn it.” **539B1-266B**

Participants also met Paris Van Dyke, the 2023-24 Illinois Youth Leadership Council representative,



who was sponsored by Wabash Communications during last year’s Youth Day. She spoke about her experiences over the past year and challenged attendees to say, “Yes.”

“What I want to say to you today is something that I decided to do during this day last year — take every opportunity,” Van Dyke said. “You will learn so much if you just choose to say, ‘Yes.’”

In addition to Youth Day, students were also selected to participate in Youth Tour, an annual trip to

Washington, D.C., sponsored by Illinois electric and telephone cooperatives. This year’s trip will be held June 14-21. Adriana Eveland and Ella Bernhardt will represent McDonough Power, with Sara Avalos selected as an alternate, and Celena Mangalaraj, Kaden Little and Abby Starbuck will represent McDonough Telephone on the weeklong trip and meet their elected officials, see historic sites, learn firsthand how cooperatives work and gain valuable leadership skills.

Member Prizes

Every month we will have four map location numbers hidden throughout The Wire. If you find the map location number that corresponds to the one on your bill (found above the usage graph), call our office and identify your number and the page that it is on. If correct, you will win a \$10 credit on your next electric bill.