



*National Teen Driver Safety Week
is Oct. 20-26, 2024.*

Teen driver safety: As a parent, you're in the driver's seat

Parenting teens can be challenging. While some battles aren't worth fighting, protecting your teen behind the wheel is. **Melissa A. Wade**

And, although no one wants to think about teens being in car accidents, it does happen. Protecting your teen behind the wheel is crucial due to their inexperience, which makes them more susceptible to crashes. Car accidents are a leading cause of death for teens in the U.S., with the highest risk in the first year of driving. Common hazards include additional passengers, speeding, drowsy driving and using phones.

Distracted driving is a major issue, with 3,308 people killed in distraction-related crashes in 2022, including 2,613 teens, according to the U.S. Department of Transportation. That's approximately seven teens per day.

Teen drivers often lack the skills and experience needed to avoid fatal crashes, and distractions such as texting can be particularly dangerous. For example, reading a text at 55 mph is like driving the length of a football field with your eyes

closed. For this reason, many states have laws against texting, talking on the phone and engaging in other distractions while driving.

There are three types of driving distractions to discuss with your teen:

- Visual, when you take your eyes off the road.
- Manual, when you take your hands off the wheel.
- Cognitive, when you take your mind off driving.

To prevent distracted driving, teach your teens (and model) these tips:

- Do not text while driving.
- Block texts and keep your phone out of sight.
- Avoid eating while driving.
- Use playlists instead of searching for music.
- Set up navigation before driving or have a passenger navigate.

Teen drivers report pressure from families and friends to use phones while driving. Many drivers continue to use phones even when they are

aware of the crash risk. Technology can help prevent cell phone use while driving. Use built-in features on your smartphone or cell phone blocking apps to prevent distractions. For the greatest safety benefit, change your phone settings to block calls and text messages.

Stay safe around power lines

Ensure your teen knows what to do if they encounter a utility pole and/or downed or low hanging power lines: stay in the vehicle, call 911 and stay at least 50 feet away from the scene if they witness an accident.

Make sure they realize that any downed lines or other damaged utility equipment can look lifeless and harmless yet still be energized. They do not have to be sparking, moving or sizzling (like you often see in movies) to be energized.

For more safety tips, visit [SafeElectricity.org](https://www.SafeElectricity.org) and consider downloading a Parent-Teen Driving Agreement from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).



Egyptian Electric
Cooperative Association
Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

1732 Finney Road
Murphysboro, IL 62966

Business hours/After hours
800-606-1505

24/7 Automated Pay-by-Phone
844-759-3977

Office hours 8 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. M-F
www.eeca.coop

Board of Directors

Kevin Liefer, President
Randall Campbell, Vice President
Kevin Bame, Secretary – Treasurer
Rick Asaturian
Paul Hicks
Mary Jo Homan
Ken Jarrett
Steve Prest
Paul Pyatt



Shane Hermetz
General Manager

Choose your payment option!

- At our office lobby, drive-thru, drop-box, or payment kiosk
- Mail to: 1732 Finney Road, Murphysboro, IL 62966
- Set up recurring bank draft or credit card payments
- Use SmartHub portal, online or mobile app
- By phone at 844-759-3977, using credit card or checking account
- Off-site kiosks located at 2301 N. Reed Station Parkway and 1815 W. Main in Carbondale

OCTOBER IS NATIONAL



Electric cooperatives are not-for-profit, community-led utilities. Because we are a co-op, we can adapt to our local members' needs, providing the programs and services you care about most. ***That's the power of co-op membership.***

Celebrate Coop Month with EECA!

When you connect with EECA, you're talking to neighbors who attend your church, whose kids go to school with yours, and whose power goes out when yours does. We're proud to be a part of the communities we serve, and we're committed to providing you with the best service possible.

Locally run since 1938.



Egyptian Electric
Cooperative Association

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

2024 Classroom Empowerment Grant Official Rules

Egyptian Electric Cooperative is now accepting applications for ten Classroom Empowerment Grants, each worth \$500. Open to public and private K-12 schools within our service territory, these grants empower teachers and administrators to enhance educational opportunities for students through innovative classroom projects. Winning applications will be based on projects that best serve the purpose of improving the learning environment and/or increasing educational resources for students.

APPLICATION PROCESS

Submit the completed Grant Application Form, **and** a double-spaced typewritten request (not to exceed three pages) that includes the following:

1. A description of the project, what the project will accomplish, and why it should be selected for funding.
2. The estimated cost of the project based on researched and provided data.
3. An explanation of why funds are necessary for the completion of the project.
4. If other funding options have been pursued, the status of those requests.
5. When the project will be completed.
6. The number of students impacted by the project.
7. How the goals of the project will be measured, and what would determine the project to be a success.

8. How the project ties to our Touchstone Energy core values: integrity, accountability, innovation and commitment to community.

Photos and supporting data are optional, but strongly encouraged. For questions on the program, contact Roni Croxell at 800-606-1505 or rcroxell@eeca.coop.

WHO MAY APPLY

Teachers, administrators, and/or qualified employees of K-12 public or private schools within the Egyptian Electric Cooperative (EECA) service territory footprint can apply.

ELIGIBLE PROJECTS

Qualifying projects are those that improve the learning environment for students and/or increase educational resources for the school.


SELECTION PROCESS

An impartial judging panel will score the applications based on which projects best demonstrate improving the learning environment and/or increasing educational resources for the school. Decision of the judging panel is final.

IMPORTANT DATES

All completed applications must be received by the office of EECA, by **Friday, Nov. 8, 2024**. The winners will be notified no later than Dec. 6. Funded projects must be completed by the end of the 2025 spring semester.

The Classroom Empowerment Grant application can be found on page 6 or eeca.coop.



EECA returning \$1.5M in Capital Credits to Members

This year, due to increased check fraud and a change in Board Policy to protect our members' returns, active members with total capital credits under \$500 will receive a bill credit. If the amount exceeds \$500, we will send you a check as in years prior. Members who had service with us in 1993 and 1994 and still have service today will receive a refund proportional to their contribution to the year's revenue.

Blood Drive
Tuesday, October 8th
10am-3pm
at Egyptian Electric Cooperative



MEMBER PRIZES

Every month we will have three member names hidden throughout our Egyptian Electric News section. If you find your name, call our office and identify yourself and the page that it is on and you will win a \$10 credit on your next electric bill.

YOU'RE INVITED

Member Appreciation & Recycle Day!

8 A.M. TO NOON • SATURDAY, OCT. 19
EECA HEADQUARTERS, 1732 FINNEY RD, MURPHYSBORO

We will offer electronic recycling, battery recycling, document shredding, and disposal of unwanted prescriptions in partnership with the Jackson County Health Department.

Documents:

For onsite shredding, confidential documents such as tax returns, receipts, insurance papers, and empty manila folders will be accepted. Paper clips, staples, and plastic binder clips attached to documents are also accepted.

Electronics:

Accepted:

Computers (desktop, laptop, tablets)
 Monitors (CRT & flat screen)
 Printers, Scanners
 Fax machines
 Keyboards & mice
 Televisions
 Cable & satellite receivers
 Cords & cables
 VCR & DVD players
 Digital converter boxes
 Portable digital music players
 Video game players
 Small-scale servers
 Cell phones

Not Accepted:

Radios	Fans
Stereos	VHS tapes
Cameras	Washers & dryers
Answering machines	Stoves
Copy machines	Freezers
Typewriters	Water heaters
Calculators	Refrigerators
Other phones	Humidifiers
Power tools	Dehumidifiers
Clocks	Smoke detectors
Microwaves	Lamps
Blenders (without glass)	Lightbulbs
Coffeemakers	Vacuum cleaners
Toasters	CDs/DVDs

Batteries:

Most small household batteries will be accepted. However, we **cannot** accept alkaline batteries.

Prescriptions:

All prescription medications will be accepted, but **needles will not be accepted.**

This event is open to the public, but to show our appreciation for EECA members, they will be provided coffee and donuts.

 **Egyptian Electric
Cooperative Association**

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 