



# RuralHIGHLIGHTS

Local News from Rural Electric Convenience Cooperative

RURAL Highlights

**REPORT POLE  
DISTURBANCE**

**HAZARD** 

**STOP**

**DO NOT  
REMOVE DIRT  
AROUND RECC  
POLES**



## Keep co-op poles buried



Please contact the cooperative if you find pole bottoms exposed or the surrounding dirt is disturbed. The overall length of RECC poles is selected to provide proper line clearance, and the burial depth is calculated to support the overall structure. These conditions must be maintained indefinitely to provide safety and security.

A 35' class 4 pole weighs 1,100 pounds and carries the weight of multiple conductors, with various electrical components. Transformers weigh 300-500 pounds, and voltage regulators are even heavier. A typical RECC pole must be buried no less than 5 feet 6 inches to withstand the weight of the pole and its attachments. Engineers use regional charts to determine depth standards,



ensuring that utility poles can withstand high wind loads, ice buildup, and soggy soil conditions. Removing the supportive dirt is equivalent to burying the poles too shallow or at depths less than the minimum standard. When ditches are involved, the soil erodes quickly, exposing even more of the pole and reducing the capacity to support the structure.



LENGTH OF POLE (ft)	SETTING DEPTH (ft)	
	IN SOIL	IN ROCK
20	5.0	3.0
25	5.5	3.5
30	5.5	4.0
35	6.0	4.0
40	6.0	4.0
45	6.5	4.5
50	7.0	4.5
55	7.5	5.0
60	8.0	5.0

## Youth Tour 2025



Every June, a select group of high school students from across Illinois leave their rural communities to spend a week taking in the historic sights and bustling energy of the nation's capital. This year, 48 students sponsored by 25 Illinois electric and telephone cooperatives took part in the 2025 Youth Tour to visit Washington, D.C., for a weeklong experience designed to educate and inspire the next generation of cooperative and civic leaders. They joined more than 2,000 students representing 44 states for the annual event.

"This trip is so much more than sightseeing," said Brooke Gross, member services manager and facilitator of youth programs at the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives. "It's about building relationships, learning leadership and showing that they have the power to shape their communities and futures."

### A full week of history

Over the course of the week, students visited historic landmarks including Gettysburg, Arlington National Cemetery and, for the first time in many years, had the

opportunity to tour the White House, where the students caught a glimpse of President Donald Trump. They also toured the U.S. Capitol, strolled the National Mall, stood at the steps of the Supreme Court and explored the Smithsonian museums.

Midweek, students took part in the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association's Youth Day, where they joined hundreds of other teens from across the country to hear from national leaders and learn how to use their voices back home.

**Representing RECC this year are Dallas Alavarez of Auburn and Olivia Dowell of Girard — Washington Monument**



## Rural Electric Convenience Cooperative

3973 W. State Route 104  
P.O. Box 19 • Auburn, IL 62615  
(217) 438-6197  
e-mail: [recc@recc.coop](mailto:recc@recc.coop)  
[www.recc.coop](http://www.recc.coop)

Find us on 

### Board of Directors

Chris Wilcox, Chairman  
Clayton Bloome, Vice Chairman  
Jimmy L. Ayers, Secretary/Treasurer  
Garry Niemeyer, Asst. Sec./Treasurer  
Neil Bryan  
Cassie L. Eigenmann  
Andy Goleman  
Thomas Hart  
Mel Repscher

### President/CEO

Sean Middleton

### Editor

Jeff Lancaster

See our web page for monthly  
board meeting reports.

### Payment Options

- At our office front desk or outside drop-box
- Mail to: PO Box 19, Auburn IL 62615
- Set up recurring bank draft or credit card payments
- Online, with Pay Now from our website
- Use SmartHub portal, online or mobile app
- By phone to our office, using credit card or checking account
- By phone using automated payment (217) 438-6197

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

From sobering visits to the Holocaust Memorial Museum and the 9/11 Pentagon Memorial to moments of laughter at the Museum of Illusions and team-building at Beat the Bomb, the Youth Tour experience was unforgettable.

### A trip that lasts a lifetime

The week concluded with a farewell dinner and dance, and by the time students returned home on June 23, many said they felt changed by the experience. To learn more about Youth Tour, go to [youthtour.coop](http://youthtour.coop) or [facebook.com/ILYouthTour](https://facebook.com/ILYouthTour).

**Dallas Alavarez and Olivia Dowell  
at the Capitol Building in D.C.**



**Juan Giron Aguirre has accepted an apprenticeship at RECC. He was a co-op intern and a 2024 graduate of Auburn High School. Juan completed LLCC's Electrical Line Distribution Program and currently resides in Auburn. Please help welcome Juan as the newest member of the RECC team.**