

Norris Electric *News*

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

Norris Electric Cooperative

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Report an Outage:
1-877-783-3221

Office Hours:
Monday – Thursday
7 a.m. – 5 p.m.

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General Manager
Tamara Phillips



YOU ARE INVITED

SAVE THE DATE **28 FEB**

DO NOT MISS IT

NORRIS ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE WILL HOST THE 88TH ANNUAL MEETING OF MEMBERS ON FEB. 28, 2026.

Come spend time with your friends and neighbors and enjoy a catered lunch and a chance to win mega prizes after the meeting. We will also give four \$500 scholarships to four lucky high school seniors.

You don't want to miss it! Mark your calendars, and watch for more details in February's magazine!

If you are thinking of a career as a lineman, this scholarship is for you.

The LaVern and Nola McEntire Memorial Lineworker's Scholarship is a \$3,000 scholarship to help pay for costs to attend the lineworker's school conducted by the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives in conjunction with Lincoln Land Community College in Springfield, Ill.

One scholarship a year will be awarded to an individual who is related to a rural electric cooperative employee or director in the state of Illinois; or is the son or daughter of an electric cooperative member in Illinois; or is enrolled in the Lincoln Land lineworker's school; or has served or is serving in the U.S. Armed Forces or National Guard. The applicant must have a high school diploma or a GED at the time the scholarship is awarded in July.

Applications must be submitted online or postmarked by April 30, 2026. Scholarships are awarded based on an essay, a biographical statement, references and a recommendation that will be submitted. If interested in a lineman career, check out our website at www.norriselectric.com/scholarships.





Assignment of 2023 Capital Credits

As a not-for-profit cooperative, Norris Electric is owned by the member-consumers we serve. When you pay your electric bill, you help build equity in your cooperative. One of the benefits of cooperative membership is that any funds remaining after expenses are allocated back to members as capital credits based on your usage.

Assignments of 2023 margins have been completed. A total of \$104,419.60 in electric margins and \$48,364.35 in internet margins has been allocated as capital credits for the year 2023.

If you received electric or internet service from Norris Electric in 2023, your capital credit allocation notice appeared on your November 2025 billing statement. This is not a bill, and the amount cannot be used to pay your electric charges. It simply reflects your share of equity in Norris Electric Cooperative for the year 2023.

Capital credits are returned to members when the board of directors determines the cooperative is in a strong enough financial position to do so. This notice is for informational purposes only and requires no action on your part.

SCHOLARSHIP

Apply Online Today

Deadline is Feb 2nd

Norris Electric Scholarship Program

Norris Electric is offering **THREE \$1,000** scholarships to high school seniors. Visit our website @ www.norriselectric.com for rules and the application. You can also contact your school's guidance counselor for more details.

Norris Electric Scholarship Program

- Denise Pless Creative Arts Scholarship -

This \$1,000 scholarship will be awarded to a student who chooses to major in communications, visual art, music, creative writing, film, photography, art history, or art restoration.

Visit our website @ www.norriselectric.com for rules and the application. You can also contact your school's guidance counselor for more details.

Deadline is Feb 2nd



Winter safety for outdoor workers

How to protect yourself from frostbite and hypothermia this winter

When the temperature drops, so does your body's ability to stay safe. Outdoor workers — and those who enjoy outdoor sports like hunting, fishing or hiking — face added risks and must take extra steps to guard against frostbite and hypothermia.

Follow these tips and have a plan to stay safe when working outdoors:

- **Watch the weather.** Monitor the temperature and wind chill. Take frequent breaks indoors to help prevent cold stress.
- **Stay warm and dry.** Dress in loose, warm layers. Wear a moisture-wicking base, an insulating mid-layer and a protective outer layer (flame-resistant/arc-rated (FR/AR-rated) if required for your work). Use warm socks and waterproof boots. Remove any wet clothing as quickly as possible.
- **Protect your head and face.** Use a hat, hood or hard-hat liner. When required for your job, choose FR/AR-rated liners or balaclavas. Avoid bulky hats or loose scarves.
- **Keep your hands safe.** Wear insulated gloves or mittens to guard against frostbite. If working with electricity, always use voltage-rated protective gloves with approved liners — never substitute regular winter gloves in place of necessary personal protective equipment (PPE).

■ **Fuel your body.** Drink warm fluids, stay hydrated and eat high-energy foods.

■ **Know the warning signs.** Watch for frostbite (numbness, skin color changes) and hypothermia (shivering, confusion, slurred speech).

■ **Be prepared on the road.** Keep a winter emergency kit in your vehicle with blankets, traction aids and extra PPE.

Recognizing frostbite

Frostbite happens when skin and tissue lose circulation and freeze, commonly affecting fingers, toes, ears and nose.

Symptoms of frostbite:

- Numbness or tingling in the affected area
- Skin that turns red, white or bluish gray
- Cold, hard or waxy-looking skin
- Stiff muscles and joints

Treating frostbite:

1. If possible, move indoors to a warm place.
2. Warm the affected area with warm (not hot) water, or place hands under armpits.
3. Avoid rubbing or massaging frostbitten skin, as this may cause further damage.
4. Seek medical attention for severe frostbite or skin with blisters.

Recognizing hypothermia

Hypothermia occurs when body temperature drops dangerously low.

Symptoms of hypothermia:

- Shivering
- Confusion or slurred speech
- Drowsiness or exhaustion
- Slow, shallow breathing

Treating hypothermia:

1. If possible, move indoors to a warm place.
2. Call 911 immediately, especially if the person is unconscious.
3. Provide warm fluids, avoiding caffeine and alcohol.
4. Remove any wet clothing and warm the torso with layers of blankets or clothing.
5. Wrap the body and head, leaving the face uncovered.
6. If layers are not available, add body heat.

Cold weather brings unique challenges, from icy roads to freezing winds that make outdoor work even more hazardous. Lineworkers and other outdoor professionals face these risks daily to keep essential services running.

When temperatures drop, look out for one another and take steps to stay safe. Prevention matters — limit your time in the elements, wear proper protective clothing, and stay alert. Working smart in the cold helps ensure everyone makes it home safely.

January Service Anniversaries



Thank you
For Serving
Our Members!

ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP OF THE MONTH

Winter weather can cause your home heating system to work overtime. Check for air leaks and drafts around doors and windows, then seal them with weatherstripping or caulk. Close fireplace dampers when not in use, and consider installing insulating curtains to help keep warm air inside. You can also save energy by lowering your thermostat a few degrees. Even small adjustments like these can reduce heating costs and improve comfort during the coldest months.

YOUTH TOUR 2026

Applications NOW open! Apply by February 1st, 2026

win!

Free trip to Washington D.C.
June 15-22-2026

Scan QR Code
more details.

