

The SouthEastern LIGHT

August 2026



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Investing in tomorrow's leaders

As a member-owned Cooperative, SouthEastern Illinois Electric Cooperative's commitment to community extends far beyond providing reliable electricity. One of the most meaningful ways your Cooperative serves southeastern Illinois is by investing in young people, supporting their education, encouraging leadership, and helping them understand how to stay safe around electricity. These efforts reflect the Cooperative principle of concern for

community and help build a stronger future for the entire region.

Each year, SEIEC provides local students with the opportunity to experience government in action through the Youth to Washington Tour. The program is open to high school sophomores, juniors and seniors who attend a school within the Cooperative's service area and have not previously participated. Two students are selected to represent SEIEC, first taking

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READERSHIP
PRIZE WINNER:
Anthony Payne,
Sesser, IL



SouthEastern Illinois Electric Cooperative's Youth Tour delegates, Sedona Prior and Iris Mount, joined students from across Illinois for a week of leadership, history and sightseeing in Washington, D.C.

projects are designed to improve the learning environment or expand opportunities available to students. Since 2006, SEIEC has distributed \$82,200 in Classroom Empowerment Grants throughout the cooperative's service area.

For students preparing to continue their education, scholarship opportunities offered through the Illinois Electric Cooperative network can help make the next step more affordable. The Thomas H. Moore Illinois Electric Cooperatives Memorial

part in Youth Day in Springfield and later joining students from across the country for the national Youth Tour in Washington, D.C.

This experience allows students to visit historic landmarks, learn more about the democratic process and meet other young leaders from rural communities. More than a trip, Youth Tour helps participants build confidence, develop new perspectives and better understand the role

electric cooperatives play in the communities they serve.

SEIEC also supports education directly in local classrooms through the Touchstone Energy Classroom Empowerment Grant program. These grants help teachers and administrators bring innovative ideas to life by funding projects, materials and educational resources that may not be covered by traditional school budgets. Qualifying

Scholarship Program supports eligible students pursuing academic degrees at colleges and community colleges. A separate scholarship assists eligible individuals who plan to attend the lineworker training program conducted by the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives in partnership with Lincoln Land Community College. Together, these opportunities support both traditional higher



Teacher and students at Ewing and Christopher Grade Schools celebrate receiving a school grant from SouthEastern Illinois Electric Cooperative.



SouthEastern Illinois Electric Cooperative employees teach local students about electrical safety during a live-line demonstration.

education and a skilled career path essential to the electric utility industry.

Education also means teaching young people how to recognize and avoid electrical hazards. Through live line demonstrations, students can see the power of electricity in a controlled setting. Using utility equipment and realistic scenarios, these demonstrations show what can happen when objects, equipment or people contact energized power lines. The visual, hands-on presentation reinforces important lessons about keeping a safe distance

from electrical facilities, responding appropriately to downed lines and making safety a lifelong habit.

Each of these programs meets a different need, but all share one goal: helping young people in our service area learn, grow and succeed. Whether SEIEC is opening the door to Washington, D.C., placing new resources in a classroom, helping a graduate pursue the next stage of education or delivering a safety lesson students will remember, your cooperative is proud to invest in the future of southern Illinois.

ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP OF THE MONTH

August heat can put your air conditioner to the test, making it a great time to check your system's air filter. A dirty, clogged filter restricts airflow, forcing your cooling system to work harder than necessary to keep your home comfortable. That extra strain can reduce efficiency, increase energy use and contribute to unnecessary wear and tear on equipment. Inspect your filter monthly during periods of heavy air conditioner use and replace it if it appears dirty. A clean filter supports efficient operation and can even enhance indoor air quality—helping you stay cool and comfortable during the hottest days of summer.



HOW PEAK POWER REWARDS WORKS

1

ENROLL

Sign up online in minutes.

2

GET NOTIFIED

We'll notify you before a Peak Power Event.

3

REDUCE USAGE

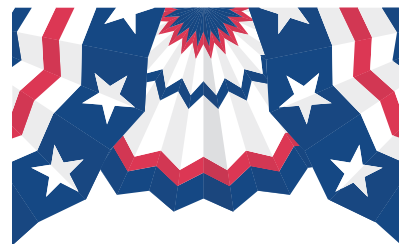
Use a little less electricity during the event window.

4

EARN BILL CREDITS

Earn \$1 for every kWh you reduce.

Scan to enroll in minutes or visit
SEIEC.com/PeakPower



We will be
Closed
• on •
Labor Day

Monday, September 7



POWER OUTAGE

If your power goes off, we offer these suggestions

1. Check the fuses or circuit breakers in your service panels. If you have breakers, make sure they are in the "ON" position.
2. If you have a meter pole, check the main breaker panel just below the meter socket. If the breaker is in the "OFF" position, check all of your wiring from the meter pole to your various buildings. If the wiring appears to be okay, reset the breaker to the "ON" position.
3. If you still do not have power, check with neighbors to see if they have power.
4. To report a power failure or other emergency, please phone 1-877-399-8405. This phone number is monitored around the clock, 365 days per year to accept your outage and emergency calls.
5. Your phone call will be handled by SouthEastern's automated outage reporting system and will be identified automatically through ANI (Automatic Number Identification). An outage record will then be generated for your location. Please note that the phone number

from which you place the call will be the number used to generate the record. If the system fails to recognize your phone number, members having touch-tone phones may simply enter their seven-digit phone number (without area code) in order to report the outage. Members not having touch-tone phones will be asked to leave a message. It is important you leave your name, phone number and location of the outage. Retrieving messages and entering them into the system is time consuming; therefore, please leave only a message that will help in restoration of electric service. Do not remain on the line for an operator because a live operator is not there to respond. In order to keep a current listing of all numbers, it is important that you notify the Cooperative of any changes in your telephone number.

6. Handling outage calls electronically allows you to report power failures very quickly. Once your outage has been reported, it will be dispatched to repair personnel who will restore your outage as soon as possible. Calling back repeatedly will not shorten the length of the outage, but may hinder the efforts of other members who are trying to report outages.

OUTAGE CALLS ONLY 1-877-399-8405

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Find us on 
Facebook.com/
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