



NINNESCAH RURAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

Watts Ahead

Ninnescah Rural Electric Co-op, Inc.

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In Case of an Outage

If your electricity is off for more than a few minutes, please call 800-828-5538. The office hours are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday–Friday. After hours, calls will be answered by dispatch and forwarded to our on-call personnel.

Hope, Comfort and Continued Blessings for the New Year

At this point in 2020, most of us are exhausted from the onslaught of political and pandemic messaging and are counting down to the new year with hopefulness in our hearts and minds.

As I write this, the nation awaits the outcome of an election that, no matter what happens, will change the trajectory of our country. Whether our candidates won or lost, we must remember we are all Americans and we must pull together for the benefit of this country's future. Just as Cooperative Principle No. 6 — Cooperation Among Cooperatives — suggests, working together empowers all of us and builds stronger co-op communities.

I would argue that since our daily lives experienced upheaval in relation to the pandemic, cooperation within our rural communities hasn't wavered, even with social distancing and other new protocols in place. Homegrown small businesses with fewer than 20 employees, the heart of our rural communities accounting for 89% of all U.S. businesses, continue to find creative ways to adapt to the new reality of the coronavirus. And we, their friends and neighbors, continue to support their endeavors to keep our community strong. I'm not saying things have been easy. Far from it. But every day I witness the encouragement and care for those striving to keep their businesses going despite the obstacles.

The pandemic brought new challenges

to our education system as well but our school administrators, support staff and teachers continue to manage the constant adaptations required with grace and resolve. For some, distance learning is a must and parents unexpectedly find themselves not only tackling the challenges of "new math" but also technology that can be frustrating at times to say the least.

On a larger scale, the pandemic opened just about everyone's eyes to the inequities of broadband internet access for rural America, which may finally lead to improvements for those of us who struggled to manage online education, business transactions, and video-conferencing for work or with quarantined family. Yes, it took a global pandemic to shine the light on this issue, but we may now have traction to help close the internet gap.

Our Kansas electric co-op family has discovered a range of silver linings during this unparalleled year. From rediscovering the simple yet enjoyable game night with family to finally organizing junk drawers and garages, Kansans prove (once again!) the prospect of hope and comfort can be unearthed in every difficult situation.

The saying, "It's always darkest before the dawn" obviously was not penned by a Kansan. If it had been, it would read more like, "It may be darkest before the dawn, but find the light that will see us through."

Ninnescah Rural Electric wishes you and yours continued blessings in 2021.

SOPHOMORES AND JUNIORS — APPLY FOR THESE AMAZING TRIPS!

YOUTH PROGRAMS **BUILD**

Leadership, Community, Memories

Ninnescah Electric will select two students to take an all-expenses-paid trip in the summer of 2021. If you are a high school sophomore or junior, submit your application for the chance to win one of these trips.



During the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour to Washington, D.C., students meet with our elected officials. This year's tour will be June 14-21, 2021.

During both trips, students forge lifelong friendships and many become college roommates and professional colleagues. Most importantly, these youth programs inspire students to discover who they want to be.

Tour the Nation's Capital

Imagine — a chance to visit our nation's capital for one week with 35 other student leaders from across the state and visit with Kansas' senators and congressional representatives. Ninnescah will choose one winner to go to the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour in Washington, D.C., from June 14-21, 2021. The weeklong trip to Washington, D.C., is jam-packed with sightseeing. Students will visit many of the major memorials, including the Lincoln Memorial, the Jefferson Memorial



Each year, campers go rafting during Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp in Steamboat Springs, Colorado, which is scheduled for July 16-22, 2021.

Ninnescah will also choose a winner to attend the Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp in Steamboat Springs, Colorado, July 16-22, 2021. Rafting, hiking and building memories — it's not just another trip! At camp, you will join winners from Kansas, Colorado, Oklahoma and Wyoming to build valuable leadership skills. Learn more at <http://bit.ly/cylcvideo>.

and the brand-new Dwight D. Eisenhower Memorial. To see what's in store, visit <http://bit.ly/dcytvideo2015>.

Adventure in the Rockies

How to Apply

To apply for the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour or the Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp, please complete the form below or download it at www.ninnescah.com and return **BY DEC. 4, 2020**. Ninnescah will provide informational packets on which there will be a quiz and short interview (similar to a job interview) to select two winners. For more information, please contact Nancy Aschenbrenner at 800-828-5538.

Application for Youth Tour Contest – Due Dec. 4, 2020

To apply, please complete the application below and return to Ninnescah Rural Electric Cooperative, 275 N.E. 20th St., P.O. Box 967, Pratt, KS 67124, **BY DEC. 4, 2020**.

Applicant Name _____ Date of Birth _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

School _____ Year in School _____

Name of Parent(s) or Guardian(s) _____

Parent(s) or Guardian(s) Phone Number(s) _____

I agree that all information supplied in this application is accurate and true. **APPLICANT SIGNATURE** _____

I hereby grant permission for _____ to enter the 2021 Youth Tour competition sponsored by Ninnescah Electric Cooperative, Inc. **SIGNATURE OF PARENT/GUARDIAN** _____

The safety of our students and chaperones is our top priority. If the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour or Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp organizers believe that travel is unsafe due to concerns with the coronavirus (or any other acts of terrorism, disaster, civil disorder, or curtailment of transportation facilities), then the trip will be canceled.

Four Ways Santa Saves Energy in His Workshop

The holiday season is finally upon us, and Santa and his elves have been especially busy as they gear up for their biggest night of the year.

It's no secret that Santa is known for running an efficient workshop — how else could he make all those toys in time for Christmas Eve? Rumor has it that one way Santa ensures an efficient workspace is through energy-saving measures. Here are four ways Santa saves energy in his workshop.

1. SANTA LEAVES HIS DECORATIONS UP YEAR-ROUND, so by using LED holiday light strands, he's able to save on his monthly energy bills. LED holiday light strands can last up to 40 seasons, which makes them a great option for any festive home.

2. SANTA REQUIRES SEVERAL POWER TOOLS TO MAKE A YEAR'S WORTH OF NEW TOYS. That's why he insists on using cordless power tools with the ENERGY STAR® rating. According to energystar.gov, if all power tools in the U.S. used ENERGY STAR®-rated battery

chargers, 2 billion kWh hours of electricity could be saved — that's equivalent to reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 1.7 million tons!

3. SANTA KNOWS ONE OF THE BEST TRICKS TO ENSURE FIREPLACE EFFICIENCY. While a fireplace can keep a small area of your home cozy and warm, it can also pull heated air from the room through the chimney. That's why Santa always closes the fireplace flue when a fire isn't burning.

4. SANTA ALSO SAVES ENERGY BY USING POWER STRIPS. Power strips are ideal for workshops, craft nooks, game rooms and other spaces in your home. With one simple switch, you can conveniently control several devices and electronics that are plugged into the power strip.

This holiday season, let's take a page from Santa's book and remember to save energy when possible. With these four tips, you'll be well on your way to savings (and hopefully, Santa's "nice" list!).

Set the water heater temperature to 120 degrees.

Get a water heater blanket.

Turn off the lights when you leave a room.

Seal air leaks around windows, doors, plumbing, etc.

20 NEW YEAR'S Energy Saving

RESOLUTIONS YOU CAN AFFORD TO KEEP

Replace regular bulbs with CFL or LED lightbulbs.

Adjust your thermostat when going to bed or leaving the home.

Use a programmable thermostat.

Run only full loads in the washer or dishwasher

Unplug electronics and chargers not in use.

Welcome New Members

Matthew &/or Jocelyn Westerhaus – *Cunningham*

Hurricane Services Inc. – Wichita

ARP Operating LLC – Denver, CO

Jacob &/or McKinsey Glavin – *Iuka*

Robert &/or Sarah Chancey – *Satanta*

Leslie A. Scholes – *Cunningham*

Wenstrom LLC – *Kinsley*

Ryan &/or Shae Napier – *Pratt*

Ninnescah Returns Capital Credits

The Ninnescah Rural Electric Board of Trustees has approved the return of capital credits to the electric cooperative membership. The capital credits will be refunded to members for 1992, 1993 and half of 1994. This reflects your ownership in the cooperative during that specific period of time. The capital credits checks are scheduled to mail the latter part of December.

You might not realize it, but when you signed up to receive electric service from Ninnescah Electric, you became a member and owner of an electric utility. While investor-owned utilities return a portion of any profits back to their investors, electric co-ops operate on a not-for-profit basis. So, instead of returning excess funds, known as margins, to investors who might not live in the same region as you, we issue capital credits to you. The goal of the Ninnescah board of trustees is to return the margins on a regular rotating basis, starting with the oldest capital credits first.

MERRY Christmas and HAPPY NEW YEAR

Our office will be closed Thursday, Dec. 24, Friday, Dec. 25, and Friday, Jan. 1, 2021, in observance of the holidays.

Make Safety a Travel Essential this Season

The winter holiday season is a busy time of year for many of us. Along with putting out decorations and baking cookies, we often spend more time in our cars than usual: shopping for presents, traveling to family gatherings or attending holiday events. However, all that time in the car can also mean facing extreme weather conditions that can make safe driving difficult.

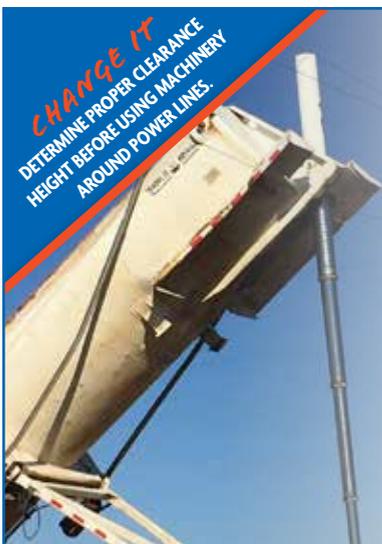
According to the U.S. Department of Transportation, winter weather conditions such as snow, sleet and slush cause more than 550,000 traffic accidents each year, leading to approximately 138,000 injuries and 1,700 fatalities.

Along with risk of injury, possible damage to your vehicle, and plain inconvenience, collisions may also involve downed power lines or other electrical hazards. Unfortunately, when this happens, it adds another very significant danger to the mix that can cause severe shock, burns or electrocution. Knowing what to do in this situation can save lives.

If you are in an accident involving a downed power line:

- ▶ Call 911 and tell the dispatcher a downed power line or other electrical equipment is involved in a collision. Power company personnel will be dispatched to the scene to de-energize the power.
- ▶ Put your window down and alert others not to approach the scene. They could be shocked or electrocuted if they walk or run over the energized area or touch anything that is energized.
- ▶ Never attempt to drive over a power line or through water, snow or other debris that could be hiding one. There is no way to tell if a power line is energized. Even if it is not sparking or buzzing it may still be energized.
- ▶ Do not exit the vehicle UNLESS the vehicle is on fire or you see smoke. The vehicle acts as an insulator that keeps you safe from stray electricity.
- ▶ If you MUST exit the vehicle, cross your arms across your chest, put your feet together, and make a clean jump from the vehicle. Then hop with feet together as far as you can — at least 50 feet away. Once a power line is in contact with a car or truck, the ground or other objects, it energizes the area. The electrical current spreads to the vehicle and ground, and it ripples out. Each “ring” of the ripple represents a different voltage. Stepping from one voltage to the next can cause your body to become a path for electricity and electrocute you.
- ▶ If a power line is inside the vehicle due to damage or an open window, stay in the vehicle. DO NOT touch or try to move the wire. DO NOT attempt to use other objects to move it.
- ▶ If your vehicle collides with a pad-mounted transformer, which houses electrical equipment connected to underground power lines, the same safety precautions apply.

Keep your family safe while on the road this holiday season. For more information about safety around electricity, go to SafeElectricity.org.



CHANGE IT
DETERMINE PROPER CLEARANCE
HEIGHT BEFORE USING MACHINERY
AROUND POWER LINES.

DETERMINE PROPER CLEARANCE HEIGHT BEFORE USING MACHINERY, LIKE HYDRAULIC LIFTS, NEAR POWER LINES.

- ▶ **BEFORE MOVING MACHINERY** near power lines, contact your electric cooperative to measure power line height. Do not do this yourself. Once you know the height, you can determine appropriate equipment, implement and extension clearances.
- ▶ **MAINTAIN 20 FEET** between the power line and tallest height of equipment.
- ▶ **ALWAYS USE A SPOTTER** when operating hydraulic beds, lifts, arms or extensions.
- ▶ **POWER LINES CAN CHANGE HEIGHT** due to wear, age and even weather conditions. Contact your electric cooperative with any concerns.
- ▶ **DO NOT GET OUT OF YOUR TRUCK, TRACTOR OR EQUIPMENT** if it makes contact with a power line. Call 911 and wait for your electric cooperative to de-energize the power before you exit.