



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.

## 4 Ways to Save Energy in the Kitchen

Ah, the kitchen. It's undeniably one of the most-loved rooms in our homes. It's where we gather with family and friends for our favorite meals and memories. But like most of us, you probably aren't thinking about saving energy when you're planning that perfect dish. Here are four ways you can save energy in the kitchen with minimal effort.

**WHEN POSSIBLE, COOK WITH SMALLER APPLIANCES.** Using smaller kitchen appliances, like slow cookers, toaster ovens and convection ovens, is more energy-efficient than using your large stove or oven. According to the Department of Energy, a toaster or convection oven uses one-third to one-half as much energy as a full-sized oven.

**UNPLUG APPLIANCES THAT DRAW PHANTOM ENERGY LOAD.** Halloween may be over, but it's possible you have energy vampires in your kitchen — these are the appliances that draw energy even when they're not in use, like coffee makers, microwaves and toaster ovens. The Department of Energy has estimated that one home's energy vampires left plugged in year-round can add up to \$100–\$200 in wasted energy costs. Unplug them when they're not in use, or better yet, use a power strip for convenient control.

**HELP LARGE APPLIANCES WORK LESS.** There are small ways you can help your larger kitchen appliances run more efficiently. For example, keep

range-top burners clean from spills and fallen foods so they'll reflect heat better. When it's time to put leftovers in the refrigerator, make sure the food is covered and allow it to cool first. That way, the fridge doesn't have to work harder to cool warm food.

**USE YOUR DISHWASHER EFFICIENTLY.** Only run full loads, and avoid using the "rinse hold" function on your machine for just a few dirty dishes as it uses 3–7 gallons of hot water each use. You can also save energy by letting your dishes air dry. If your dishwasher doesn't have an automatic air-dry switch, simply turn it off after the final rinse and prop the door open so the dishes will dry faster.

**BONUS TIP:** The best way to save energy is to not use it. Try a tasty, no-bake dessert recipe. Your sweet tooth (and energy bill!) will thank you.

By slightly adjusting a few of your habits in the kitchen, you'll be well on your way to energy savings.

## Happy Thanksgiving

Our offices will be closed Thursday, Nov. 26, and Friday, Nov. 27, in observance of the holiday. Happy Thanksgiving!



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](http://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** \_\_\_\_\_



## Cold Weather Rule Begins Nov. 1

### Payment arrangements must be made with Ninnescah to use the CWR

The Cold Weather Rule (CWR) allows for special payment and disconnection procedures for residential customers with past due bills. The provision for the CWR is to ensure human health and safety are not endangered during the cold weather months. The following guidelines have been established to protect not only you, the member, but your member-owned co-op.

The co-op will not disconnect a residential service between Nov. 1 and March 31 when the National Weather Service office forecasts the temperature to drop below 35 degrees Fahrenheit within the following 48-hour period unless:

- ▶ It is at the member's request;
- ▶ The service is abandoned;
- ▶ A dangerous condition exists on the member's premises;
- ▶ The member violates any rule of the cooperative which adversely affects the safety of the member or other persons, or the physical integrity of the cooperative delivery system; and/or
- ▶ The member causes or permits unauthorized interference with or diversion or the use of (mechanical bypass), electric service situated or delivered on or about the member's premises.

- ▶ Inform the co-op of their inability to pay their account in full;
- ▶ Give sufficient information to allow the co-op to make a mutually agreeable payment arrangement;
- ▶ NOT default on a payment agreement. Once an agreement has been made and those terms are defaulted on, the agreement becomes null and void and the member's service will be subject to immediate disconnection; and
- ▶ Apply for any federal, state, or local funds for which the member may qualify.

#### The cooperative will:

- ▶ Send one written notice mailed first class at least five days prior to termination of service — this notice is your non-payment notice of your regular electric bill which shows any balance not paid on your account when the current bill calculation was run;
- ▶ The day prior to disconnection the co-op will make at least one attempt to contact the member of record. If the member is unable to be contacted a disconnect notice will be left on the door by a co-op employee; and
- ▶ Inform the member of any known organization where funds may be available to assist with payment of electric bill.

**To qualify for the CWR the member must do the following:**

## Welcome New Members

Shelly Humble – Sawyer

Joy Williams – Pratt

Brett &/or Sadie J Stamy – Pratt

## Winter Rates Begin

We would like to remind you that Ninnescah's winter rates go into effect with your November bill. The winter rates will remain in effect through your June bill. We are listing below the rates for electric service.

Single Phase Minimum Billings		Cost
Customer Charge		\$27.50
Winter Energy Charge		\$0.1331 per kWh
Energy Cost Adjustment		varies monthly
Three Phase Minimum Billings		Cost
Customer Charge		\$37.00
Winter Energy Charge		\$0.1331 per kWh
Energy Cost Adjustment		varies monthly
Irrigation—No Control		Cost
Monthly Customer Charge		\$25.00
Annual Installed Horsepower Charge <small>(Billed in five equal installments in billing months of April to August)</small>		\$42.50/HP
Winter Energy Charge		\$0.1156 per kWh
Energy Cost Adjustment		varies monthly
Irrigation—Direct Co-op Control		Cost
Monthly Customer Charge		\$25.00
Annual Installed Horsepower Charge <small>(Billed in five equal installments in billing months of April to August)</small>		\$37.50/HP
Winter Energy Charge		\$0.0706 per kWh
Energy Cost Adjustment		varies monthly



## Update Your Contact Information

Up-to-date contact information can potentially speed up the power restoration process during an outage. Keeping the co-op updated with your information also helps us when there's a question about energy use or billing. We will never share this information with any third parties. Please take a moment to confirm or update your information by contacting our office at 800-828-5538.

## 5 Electrical Safety Features to Be Thankful For

Most days, we go about our lives without thinking too much about the many electronic gadgets and electrical safety features that allow us to perform simple tasks at work and home without a second thought. This Thanksgiving, let's take a moment to be thankful for some of the devices that help make our daily tasks safer and more convenient.

### For Your Safety: Built-In Devices

**GFCIS:** Ground fault circuit interrupters are inexpensive electrical devices that can either be installed in your electrical system or built into a power cord to protect you from severe electrical shocks. GFCIs are generally installed where electrical circuits may accidentally come into contact with water, such as kitchens, bath and laundry rooms, outdoors or in the garage. Be sure to test GFCIs monthly to make sure they are working properly.

**AFCIS:** Arc fault circuit interrupters could potentially prevent more than 50% of electrical fires that occur every year, according to the Consumer Product Safety Commission. These safety devices are typically found within your electrical panel or receptacles in the wall. An arc fault is a dangerous electrical problem caused by damaged, overheated or stressed electrical wiring or devices.

**CIRCUIT BREAKERS:** Usually found in a garage, basement or laundry room, circuit breaker boxes are an essential safety feature in your home, preventing electrical injuries and fires. Each box is filled with individual circuit breakers designed to 'trip,' or shut itself off when necessary to stop the flow

of electricity. Circuits trip for several reasons, including overloaded circuits, drawing too much power from one circuit, ground faults, abnormal flow in a circuit, and short circuits when current travels along an unintended path.

### Use Convenience Items Safely

**DEVICE CHARGERS:** Whether for work or personal use, most of us can't go a day without accessing our favorite cell phone, tablet, laptop or other portable essentials. While we rely on our chargers to keep these items running, be sure to treat charging components with care and use them correctly. Here are some safety tips:

- ▶ Personal electronic devices should NOT be placed under pillows or used on or underneath bedding.
- ▶ Do not leave cords plugged in when not in use because little ones or pets who put them in their mouths can get burned or shocked.
- ▶ Do not leave them around when not in use because toddlers might try to insert the wrong end into an electrical outlet and get shocked or burned.

Remember to childproof your outlets as well if they are not the tamper-resistant versions.

- ▶ Don't use charging devices near water or in damp conditions.
- ▶ Replace original charging

components with the same brand and type whenever possible. Using off-brand or generic versions can be dangerous if they are faulty.

### EXTENSION CORDS AND MULTI-OUTLET POWER STRIPS:

Extension cords and multi-outlet power strips or devices, while incredibly handy, should always be inspected for damage prior to use. Use them as a temporary fix, not a long-term solution, and use them safely:

- ▶ Plug them directly into an outlet, and not into another extension cord or power strip.
- ▶ If you are using a strip or extension cord outside, make sure it is rated for outdoor use.
- ▶ Never use an item that feels hot or is damaged in any way.
- ▶ Make sure these convenience items (cords and strips) are approved by a reputable independent testing laboratory like UL.
- ▶ When using an extension cord, make sure the wattage rating of the cord and the appliance match.

These are just a few electrical safety items to be thankful for this year.

## Recipes from Our Members' Kitchens

## Please Consider Submitting Your Favorite Recipe

### In your submission, include the following:

- ▶ Your name and contact information;
- ▶ Ninnescah account number; and
- ▶ the recipe (clearly printed or typed).

Email your entry to: [naschenbrenner@ninnescan.com](mailto:naschenbrenner@ninnescan.com) OR Mail your entry to: Ninnescah Rural Electric, Attn: Recipes, P.O. Box 967, Pratt, KS 67124