



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 Energy-Wise Ways to Decorate Your Home

Whether you've already decked your halls or you're just getting started, there's still time to incorporate energy savings into your holiday décor planning.

If you haven't strung your twinkle lights, be sure to use LED light strands. LEDs consume far less energy than incandescent lights and they can last 40 holiday seasons. They're also safer because they're made with epoxy lenses, not glass, making them more resistant to breaking — and they're cool to the touch, so no burnt fingers!

If you missed Santa's memo about energy-saving LEDs and your holiday lights are already up, you can still save on lighting costs. All you need is a programmable light timer. Most models cost between \$10-\$25 and can be purchased at your local hardware store. With a light timer, you can easily program when you want your holiday lights turned on and off, which will save you time, money and energy. If you're using a timer for exterior lighting, make sure it's weatherproof and intended for outdoor use.

For a more natural approach to decorating, many Christmas tree farms, and even retailers give away

greenery clippings from recently trimmed trees. With a little twine, extra ornaments and sparkly ribbon, you can create beautiful garlands and wreaths to hang over your front door or windows. To add extra twinkle at night, you can install solar-powered spotlights to illuminate your new (essentially free!) greenery. Solar spotlights can vary in price, but you should be able to purchase a quality set of four for about \$30 — and because they run on natural energy from the sun, there's no additional cost to your energy bill.

Regardless of how you decorate your home for the holidays, there are plenty of ways to save energy throughout the season.



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## Welcome New Members

Tiffany Biggs – *Harper*

Lois L &/or Rodney Symmonds – *Reading*

Douglas P Bramwell – *Spivey*

Jon Nace – *Greensburg*

Jim &/or Jerri Koch – *Overland Park*

Isaak &/or Maria Peters – *Greensburg*

SoKan Operating LLC – *Medicine Lodge*

Kasey Pickett &/or Ari Haffner – *Zenda*

West Wichita Gas Gathering – *The Woodlands, TX*

Wilferd J Westerman – *Zenda*

Dillon Crumpler – *Kinsley*

Steven A &/or Mary J Rohr – *Wichita*

## 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 the balance of 1994, 1995 and a portion of 1996. 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.

## Ninnescah Offers 4 SCHOLARSHIPS

Ninnescah's Board of Directors is awarding four \$1,000 scholarships in 2022 for high school juniors or seniors whose parents or guardians receive electric service from Ninnescah. 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. Applications are due in Ninnescah's office by **FRIDAY, JAN. 7, 2022.**

Applicant Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

School \_\_\_\_\_

Year in School \_\_\_\_\_

Parent(s)/Guardian(s) Names \_\_\_\_\_

Parent(s)/Guardian(s) Phone \_\_\_\_\_

I agree that all information supplied in this application is accurate and true.

### APPLICANT SIGNATURE

I hereby grant permission for \_\_\_\_\_  
to enter the 2022 Ninnescah Electric Cooperative, Inc. scholarship competition.

### SIGNATURE OF PARENT/GUARDIAN



# Deck the Halls Safely

There's nothing like putting up lights and decorations to get in the holiday spirit. It's something that many do each year without incident, yet the holidays are also one of the most hazardous times of the year when it comes to electrical fires and accidents.

Safe Electricity offers several tips as you deck the halls this season:

- ▶ When decorating outside, look up and around for power lines. Never throw lights or other decorations into trees near power lines.
- ▶ Keep ladders, equipment, and yourself at least 10 feet from power lines.
- ▶ Match plugs with outlets. Do not force a three-pronged plug into a two-pronged outlet or extension cord.
- ▶ Outside, use only lights, cords, animated displays and decorations rated for outdoor use. Follow the manufacturer's instructions on how to use them. Ensure outdoor outlets or extension cords are equipped with Ground Fault Circuit Interrupters (GFCI).
- ▶ Never string more strands of lights together than recommended by the manufacturer.
- ▶ Do not staple or nail through light strings or electrical cords. Use plastic or insulated hooks to hang lights.
- ▶ Do not attach cords to utility poles.
- ▶ The outside of your home is not the only place where you need to be cautious of electrical dangers.
- ▶ Use care when placing and decorating trees inside your home. Place fresh-cut and artificial trees away from heat sources such as registers, fireplaces and radiators.
- ▶ Water fresh-cut trees frequently.
- ▶ Turn lights off before you go to sleep.
- ▶ Set your lights up with a traditional timer or connect them to a smart speaker to allow for easy shut off.

Safe Electricity and Ninnescah Electric wish you and your family a safe and happy holiday season.

## MERRY AND BRIGHT

Don't add stress to your holiday season. Knowing how to properly use and hang lights could prevent injury or fire. Consider LED lights when replacing old strands. LEDs use 80-90% less energy than incandescent bulbs.



Make sure your home's electrical system can handle the load.

Do not use cords or plugs that are frayed or cracked.



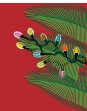
Unplug light strands before changing a bulb or string fuse.

Only use lights certified by a reputable testing lab (UL).



## 12 Days of Holiday EFFICIENCY

Deck the halls with LED holiday lights.



Use a timer to turn off holiday lights at night.

Lower the thermostat when guests arrive.



Ask Santa for a smart or programmable thermostat to save energy.

Close the fireplace damper when a fire is not burning.



Unplug appliances and electronics before heading out of town.

Gifting new electronics or appliances? Look for the ENERGY STAR® logo.



Keep the winter chill outdoors by sealing air leaks around your home.

Open the blinds and curtains during the day to let natural sunlight warm your home.



Consider rechargeable batteries and chargers for stocking stuffers!

Instead of opening the oven door, use the oven light to check the progress of your holiday feast!



Turn off household lights to enjoy the ambiance of your lighted Christmas tree.

# HOLIDAY SAFETY WORD SEARCH

Remember to keep electrical safety in mind this holiday season!

Read the safety tips below,  
then find and circle the bolded words in the puzzle.



D	T	T	X	M	L	N	L	W	V	B	H	G	P	M
P	E	Y	E	N	H	S	A	G	E	T	Q	W	C	O
D	C	R	A	K	P	T	C	K	J	X	N	C	J	Q
E	X	R	E	I	O	J	I	T	B	S	L	E	Y	I
M	P	W	W	T	W	F	R	V	V	Z	U	U	V	J
X	R	K	Z	Z	A	T	T	L	X	W	L	M	X	Y
D	T	Z	G	P	N	W	C	C	N	L	Z	A	H	Z
I	N	S	P	E	C	T	E	D	P	F	R	R	Z	T
D	P	G	V	B	E	E	L	L	Q	P	H	V	W	F
A	J	K	F	L	B	A	E	S	K	H	I	Z	W	M
N	M	V	D	T	W	V	X	R	I	R	B	H	U	C
C	O	N	B	B	R	W	O	H	O	W	Q	N	Q	P
X	A	W	X	S	N	O	I	T	A	R	O	C	E	D
C	K	L	B	T	K	R	A	J	B	C	M	D	Y	P
X	C	M	A	Y	S	K	B	O	Y	Q	M	Q	K	Q

- ▶ Do not overload electrical outlets with too many **decorations** or appliances.
- ▶ Make sure your Christmas tree is **watered** daily.
- ▶ Turn off all **electrical** decorations before leaving home or going to sleep.
- ▶ Never leave a **candle** burning if you're not in the room.
- ▶ Extension cords used for holiday decorations should always be **inspected** for damage or exposed wires.

