

# MORGAN COUNTY RURAL ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION

NOVEMBER 2022



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## MCREA Mission

Morgan County REA, a member-owned cooperative, is dedicated to serving our members by providing safe, reliable energy with a strong tradition and vision for the future.

 This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

## LOTS TO BE THANKFUL FOR THIS SEASON

BY DAVID FRICK GENERAL MANAGER



DAVID FRICK

With Thanksgiving coming up in a few weeks, there is no better time to reflect on what we are grateful for. No matter where I look, I can't help but find things for which to be thankful.

Last month, Morgan County REA took part in Co-op Month, where we celebrated you, the members who make this electric cooperative possible. MCREA is owned and operated by its members, who contribute equity capital to the cooperative and elect a board of directors to govern it. The cooperative model and our members are what helped electrify our rural area in the late 1930s. MCREA is thankful for our members and proud to have served them for 85 years.

During bad weather and storms, we often hear from members expressing what, or rather who, they are thankful for: MCREA linemen. These individuals are the ones who answer the call when the power is out, no matter the time or weather. They leave the comfort of their homes and families and

journey out to find the problem, working safely to restore power for our members. I am thankful for our linemen and the rest of MCREA's employees who work tirelessly to ensure that our members receive safe, reliable electricity.

This November, we also take time to thank our American heroes: the men and women who have served in our nation's military. At MCREA, we especially recognize the veterans who work here and are part of our co-op family. As the son of a former United States Marine, I am grateful for the brave individuals who have selflessly defended the freedoms we enjoy as Americans. On Veterans Day, we honor their sacrifice and sincerely thank all veterans for their service to our country.

Whether it is for family or friends, our veterans or our members, I know that I have lots to be thankful for. On behalf of MCREA, I want to wish all of our members and their families a happy Thanksgiving and joyful holiday season!



# THANKING THOSE WHO SERVED: HONORING VETERANS AT MORGAN COUNTY REA



This month, Morgan County REA is proud to honor the men and women who served in our nation's military. As Veterans Day approaches, we extend our most sincere gratitude to all those who have served. We want to especially recognize and thank the veterans who work here at MCREA.



## EMPOWER CHILDREN TO STAY SAFE OUTDOORS

Did you know that November is Child Safety Protection Month? Empower your children and other family members with electrical safety knowledge that can potentially save their lives. (Expedition Water Solutions, acct. #xxx5300) Always remember that electricity is everywhere, even when playing outdoors, away from screens and other plug-in devices.

- Electrical substations may spark a child's imagination with high towers and sprawling gates, but make sure your children know never to enter one for any reason. An adult should call Morgan County REA for help if a lost pet or toy ends up inside one.
- Always assume that power lines are energized and dangerous. Inform children to stay away from downed or low-hanging power lines and ask them to tell an adult if they see one. MCREA will send a professional to assist.
- Children should never play with, climb on or open padmount transformers or outdoor electrical "green" boxes. They contain electrical equipment for underground service to homes and businesses and may be dangerous. If children see a box that is open or damaged, they should stay away from it and tell an adult to contact MCREA.
- While it may look like fun, never play on a flooded street or in a water-filled ditch. The water may hide fallen power lines or damaged electrical equipment, which could cause serious injury or death.



- Do not plan outdoor activities if a thunderstorm is expected. Wait at least 30 minutes after the last heard clap of thunder or observed lightning bolt before playing outside.
- If enjoying the outdoors near water, such as a lake or pool, never use electronics with damp hands or while standing in water.
- Kites and other flying devices, such as toy airplanes or drones, should be used only in large, open areas far away from power lines and electrical equipment.

For more information on electrical safety, visit [SafeElectricity.org](http://SafeElectricity.org).



# 2023 YOUTH TOUR & YOUTH CAMP: APPLY TODAY

Each year, Morgan County REA selects one student to attend the Washington D.C. Youth Tour and another to attend the Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp near Steamboat Springs. These are both great opportunities for young MCREA members to meet new people and learn more about electric cooperatives.

Youth Tour will take place in June 2023. The student selected to represent MCREA will join hundreds of other students who represent electric co-ops from across the country for an all-expenses-paid week in our nation's capital. There they will see numerous monuments, tour museums, learn more about how electric cooperatives work and speak with members of Congress while visiting Capitol Hill.

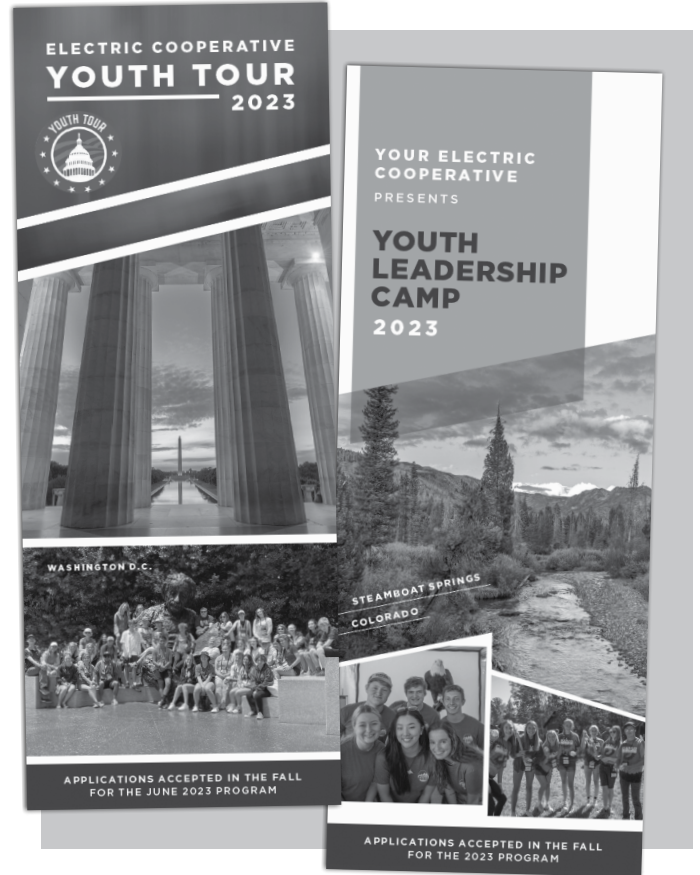
**“Youth Tour is a fabulous opportunity and a once-in-a-lifetime experience,”** students from last year's trip said. **“Youth Tour opened big doors for small-town kids.”**

And then in July 2023, MCREA will send a student to represent our co-op at the Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp near Steamboat Springs. Students from electric cooperatives in Colorado, Kansas, Oklahoma and Wyoming will spend a fun and educational week in the beautiful Rocky Mountains. Students are given the opportunity to learn about electricity and electric co-ops while also strengthening their leadership skills.

**“I will always remember the people I met through this trip,”** one student mentioned. **“I have made some great friends and I know those relationships will not stop now that camp is over.”**

One of the best things about these two phenomenal trips? **They are free to those selected to attend.**

The deadline to apply for Youth Tour and Youth Camp is Friday, December 16. Applications are open to high school sophomores,



juniors and seniors living within MCREA's service territory whose parents or grandparents are MCREA members.

To apply, visit [mcrea.org/youth-programs](http://mcrea.org/youth-programs) and click either the “Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp” or “Washington D.C. Youth Tour” buttons. If you have any questions about these youth programs, please call MCREA's office at 970-867-5688.

## DIRECTOR NOMINATING PETITIONS

Nominating petitions for the Morgan County REA Board of Directors will be available in the MCREA office beginning Tuesday, January 3, 2023, and must be returned by Friday, January 20, 2023. These two dates comply with electric cooperative election regulations set by state law.

The complete MCREA board policy outlining nominating, balloting and election of directors can be found on our website at [mcrea.org/elections](http://mcrea.org/elections), or picked up at MCREA headquarters at 734 Barlow Road, Fort Morgan.

Director elections will take place at the MCREA Annual Meeting on March 21, 2023, starting at 6 p.m. and will be conducted virtually through a Telephone Town Hall meeting. The directors who are up for election in 2023 are District 1 — Tim Peggram; District 2 — David Arndt; and District 3 — Terry Linker.



## WIN \$25 OFF YOUR ELECTRIC BILL

Each month, Morgan County REA gives two lucky members a chance at a \$25 credit on their electric bill, just by reading *Colorado Country Life*. Congratulations to Kyle Siegling. You spotted your name in the September issue and called to receive a \$25 bill credit. There are two more MCREA member names and their account numbers hidden somewhere in this issue. If you find your name and account number, call MCREA member services at 970-867-5688 by November 30 to claim a \$25 credit on your next bill.

## WANT A \$10 BILL CREDIT? SIGN UP FOR PAPERLESS BILLING

There are many advantages to signing up for paperless billing: less mail to open, email or text notifications when your bill is ready ... and you get \$10!

Now through Wednesday, November 30, Morgan County REA members who enroll in paperless billing for the first time will receive a one-time \$10 credit on their January electric bill.

MCREA is owned and operated by the members it serves, and works to ensure that member dollars are used as efficiently as possible. With recent increases in postal rates, paperless billing allows you to receive your bill while reducing costs to your electric cooperative and you, the member.

Enrolling in paperless billing is easy and can be done through your SmartHub account. Simply open the SmartHub app, where a notification for paperless billing will appear. Move the "Activate Paperless Billing" toggle switch to the right and hit "Save."

Don't have a SmartHub account? Now is a perfect time to sign up. SmartHub is a great resource, as it allows you to view your usage, report outages, and receive and pay your electric bill online, if you choose to do so.

To create your SmartHub account, visit [mcrea.org](http://mcrea.org) and click the "SmartHub" button on the homepage. For mobile devices, download the SmartHub app from the App Store or Google Play. Once you have an account, you can select the paperless billing option.

This is also a good time to update your contact information, which helps MCREA to better serve its members. Do you have questions about SmartHub or paperless billing? Give MCREA's billing department a call at 970-867-5688.

## SMALL BUSINESS SATURDAY

Support Local Businesses and Use Your Co-op Connections® Card

When it comes to shopping, perhaps one of the most bizarre buying days comes in the early morning hours following Thanksgiving. Black Friday is known for crowded stores and hordes of shoppers anxious to find the best deals. More often than not, these crowds are found at malls and big box stores across the country.

But what about small businesses? The

mom-and-pop shops? The stores locally owned and operated by our neighbors and fellow community members?

Small Business Saturday falls on November 26 this year, the day after Black Friday. (Sindy Sanchez, acct. #xxx8600) Small Business Saturday encourages people to shop locally and support the small businesses in their communities. It also gives Morgan County REA members

a chance to use their Co-op Connections® card at participating stores.

As an MCREA member, your Co-op Connections Card gives you access to discounts at local businesses, helping you save money and keeping dollars in the local economy. To see all the ways to save, visit [www.connections.coop](http://www.connections.coop) or download the free Co-op Connections app in the App Store or Google Play. Log in or sign up, then use the app's "Deals Near Me" option to see what discounts are available.

When shopping locally, show either your MCREA Co-op Connections card or the app at participating businesses. If you have any questions about how the program works, please do not hesitate to contact MCREA's member services department at 970-867-5688 or email [memberservices@mcrea.org](mailto:memberservices@mcrea.org).

When the holiday shopping season kicks off here in few weeks, keep our local small businesses in mind when searching for the perfect gifts for your loved ones.