



FACES, PLACES & VOICES OF

CAPITAL CONNECTIONS *Learning the History of the US*



Your local cooperative sponsors Colorado high school juniors and seniors to visit our Nation's capital and expand their network!

This unforgettable experience provides students with the opportunity to explore Washington, D.C. by visiting historical monuments and museums, meeting state and national legislators, and learn the benefits of electric cooperatives and the co-op business model. Students learn not only about historic Washington, D.C., but also create memories to last a lifetime!

MEET OUR SPONSORED STUDENT! CHARLOTTE MILLS, FOSSIL RIDGE HIGH SCHOOL

What experience stands out in your mind the most and why?

We were given the opportunity to speak with state Rep. Shannon Bird, and I found her insights set the tone for the biggest lessons I learned about cooperation and government over the course of the trip. At one point in response to a question about ensuring our voices were heard, she said, "Everyone wants to have their voices heard, but you also have to listen." and I wrote that down as a reminder to remember to keep an open mind in a political and cultural climate that seems increasingly driven by shouting matches rather than earnest negotiation.

What was it like meeting legislative representatives?

The representatives we spoke with were dedicated problem solvers that tied every aspect of their job back to advocating what is best for their constituents, and reaching a compromise with what is best for those in states and

districts across the country. I think it is so valuable for young people to hear about government and politics through the lens of public service rather than as a spectacle of opposing, self-serving extremism.

What did you learn about electric cooperatives?

The cooperatives making up NRECA invest in their communities not as corporate executives arranging a publicity stunt for profit, but rather as community members themselves that are sincerely seeking the betterment of their hometowns. In D.C., I was struck by the parallels between this and the idea of "a government of the people, by the people, and for the people" that has driven our nation's development.

What was your favorite landmark you visited?

I would say the Library of Congress. We got to tour the Great Hall and see some amazing artifacts including Thomas Jefferson's book collection and a complete original copy of The Gutenberg Bible. The building itself is a stunning tribute to learning in all disciplines, paying homage to great discoveries and cultural advancements through intricately painted walls displaying literary quotes, an incredible dome honoring international contributions, and elegant statues depicting mythological figures.



High School Juniors and Seniors! Apply by January 6, 2025 for an opportunity to attend this free trip to Washington, D.C.



Applications Now Open /// INTERESTED IN ATTENDING THE WASHINGTON, D.C. YOUTH TOUR?

Scan the code or go to www.pvrea.coop/my-community

SAVE UP TO
\$600
ON E-BIKES



Wheelie Good Deals on E-Bikes

Save big by combining a PVREA rebate with the State of Colorado e-bike tax credit.

All Colorado residents now qualify for a point-of-sale tax credit discount worth \$450 off a qualifying e-bike purchase from participating retailers.

Residents of Colorado living in Colorado may receive a discount on the purchase of one e-bike once per calendar year.

Not all e-bikes available on the market are eligible for the e-bike tax credit and not all retailers are participating.

PVREA members also qualify for an e-bike rebate through the co-op worth 25% of the cost of purchase up to \$150. Members may submit multiple e-bike rebates

per account per year, up to \$300 in total e-bike rebates.

Electric bicycle rebates available at www.pvrea.coop/rebates

Scan the code to learn more about the State of Colorado e-bike tax credit or to go www.energoffice.colorado.gov/ebike-tax-credit



COLORADO
Energy Office



SAFETY CORNER

Campus Safety Tips



Every College Student Should Know

Relay these safety tips to your young adults who are about to hit campus for the first time or return for another year.

1. Do not overload electrical outlets, power strips, or extension cords.
2. Extension cords are only for temporary use. If you must use an extension cord, use it temporarily and unplug it when not in use.
3. Unplug small appliances when not in use and all appliances when away for extended periods of time.
4. This tip still holds true: Never walk alone at night.
5. Use light bulbs with the correct wattage for lamps. If no indication is on the lamp fixture, then use a bulb with less than or equal to 60 watts.
6. Locate the emergency call buttons or phones across campus in case of emergency.
7. Do not put your cell phone on or under your pillow or bedding. It could overheat or catch fire.
8. Never tack, nail, or staple an electrical cord to any surface or run cords across traffic paths, under rugs, or furniture.
9. Discard damaged electronics — including frayed cords and bent plug-ins.
10. Watch out for overheated outlets. If an electrical outlet becomes so hot you cannot leave your hand on it, there is potential for a fire. Unplug everything from the outlet and notify the landlord or dorm officials immediately.

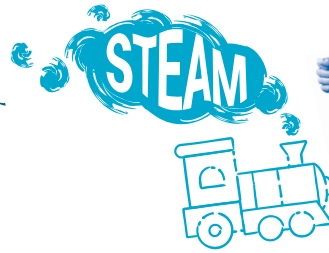
Source: Safe Electricity

APPLY FOR OUR

EMPOWER GRANT PROGRAM

Full STEAM Ahead! EMPOWERING OUR CLASSROOMS

The Empower Grant awards \$25,000 in total each year to local K-12 Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math (STEAM) projects in Larimer, Weld, and Boulder counties.



WHAT CAN YOUR CLASSROOM DO WITH AN EMPOWER GRANT?

In the past, grant funds have been used to purchase 3D printers, robotic kits, outdoor learning spaces, aquaponic systems, electronic music inventor kits, and more!

WHERE CAN I APPLY?

Scan the code for exact dates and application requirements or go to www.pvrea.coop/empower-grants



Power Up Your Wires *////* BECAUSE SAFETY IS OUR CORNERSTONE

Electricity is intertwined with our daily routines. Whether at home, on the job, at school, or on the commute **Electricity is Everywhere** and it makes our daily lives easier just one switch at a time.

Electrical safety demonstrations are a great tool to educate the public about navigating safety and energy basics.

Your local co-op provides free electrical safety demonstrations as a service to our communities. As your local co-op, it's important we share our expertise with others to keep our members and community safe around electricity.

Scan the code to book a Poudre Valley REA safety demonstration today or go to www.pvrea.coop/my-community



Our Youth are Our Future

We believe it is crucial to invest in our local students and community for a brighter tomorrow for all.

Dedicated to making a difference, your cooperative has awarded over \$500k in assistance to Colorado High School students to continue their education at a higher level. Each year, your cooperative offers 29 scholarships paying up to a combined total of \$53,000 to high school seniors across Northern Colorado.

WHO CAN APPLY?

High School seniors who have been accepted for admission at **ANY** accredited university, college, community college, or vocational school. Applicants **MUST** be dependents of parents, or consumers themselves, who currently receive our electric service.



SPARKING BRILLIANCE ONE STEP AT A TIME

HOW ARE APPLICATIONS SCORED?

- 1. Academics** – Based solely on academic achievement in school.
- 2. Well-Rounded** – Based on overall achievements of extra-curricular activities, community service, and grades.
- 3. Helping Hand** – Scored on overall achievements, grades, and financial need of student.



HOW TO APPLY?

Its simple! Scan the code for exact dates and requirements or go to www.pvrea.coop/scholarships





Tips to **Beat the Summer Peak**

When we all work together to lower energy use, we can lock in lower electricity rates so everyone saves. Here are a few simple ways to save during peak energy-use times this summer.

1. Consider joining Power Peak Rewards to earn bill credits.
2. Pre-cool your home before 5pm then raise the thermostat temperature to lower energy consumption during peak times.
3. Open windows to trap cold nighttime air and ensure it stays inside during the day with proper sealing, caulking, and insulation.
4. Use ceiling fans to feel cooler – remember fans cool people, not places, so only use in occupied rooms.
5. Avoid using major appliances – try an air fryer or slow cooker instead of the oven or range.
6. Close drapes and blinds to block heat from the sun.

Learn more at www.pvrea.coop/power-peak-rewards



The Kids Corner

Calling All Little Lineworkers

Your local cooperative provides at-home activities for your kids to learn electrical safety info!

Scan the code to learn more or go to www.pvrea.coop/my-community

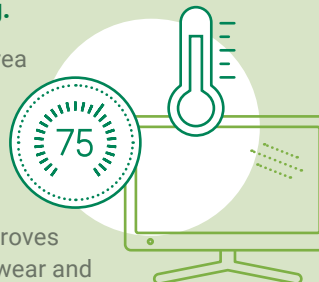


Placing heat sources, such as lamps, computers, or TVs, near your thermostat can result in false temperature readings, increased energy use, and inconsistent cooling/heating.

Make sure your thermostat is installed in an area clear of obstructions, electronic devices, direct sunlight, and drafts.

Ensuring your thermostat is free from these types of interferences optimizes energy efficiency, improves indoor comfort, and reduces wear and tear on your cooling/heating system.

Source: energy.gov



AUGUST 2024

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month





Supporting Education: Powering Our Community's Future

BY **JEFF WADSWORTH** PRESIDENT & CEO

Each year, the Rural Electric Youth Tour to Washington, D.C. provides an incredible opportunity for young people from co-op communities to visit our Nation's capital.

This experience is both educational and inspiring, offering students a firsthand look at the democratic process and opportunities to meet with elected officials as they learn about the workings and history of our Republic.

The impact of the Youth Tour is significant. For many participants, it is full of "firsts." It is their first time in Washington, D.C., and their first experience with a diverse group of peers from across the country.

Representing us this year, we are proud to have Charlotte Mills, a standout student from Fossil Ridge High School in Fort Collins. Charlotte has demonstrated a strong commitment to community, and we believe she gained valuable insights and experiences from this trip. Read from Charlotte as she details her journey on **page 7** or on our website at **www.pvrea.coop/news**.

Cooperatives are built on the principles of education, community, and democratic member control — and the Youth Tour embodies these values.

EDUCATION

During the trip, students learn about electric cooperatives, US history, and civic engagement. The academic knowledge and real-world experiences foster a well-rounded understanding of both the role cooperatives and the electricity they provide play as well as the benefit of active participation in American democracy.



COMMUNITY

By investing in our youth, we are investing in tomorrow's leaders. The Youth Tour helps cultivate a sense of responsibility and empowerment, encouraging young people to take active roles at the local level and ultimately in shaping our shared future.



DEMOCRACY

Meeting with elected officials at the state and national level teaches students how democratic control influences their community and their cooperative, which is democratically run by its members. This trip empowers students to be future participants, ensuring the cooperative spirit lives on in the next generation.

COOPERATIVE BUSINESS MODEL

The Rural Electric Youth Tour is a wonderful opportunity for the next generation to experience our cooperative difference. By providing these young leaders with such a rich educational experience, we hope to inspire them to become active and engaged citizens who will make a positive impact in the years to come.

If you have a high school junior or senior in your life, ask them to apply for the 2025 Youth Tour before the application deadline on January 6. Details can be found at www.pvrea.coop/my-community.



ABOUT YOUR CO-OP

PVREA serves energy solutions to more than 55,000 homes and businesses in Boulder, Larimer, and Weld counties. We are a member-owned co-op, led by those we serve.

OUR MISSION

We are committed to providing safe, reliable, efficient energy solutions with exceptional service to our members.



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