

Y-W ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION

OCTOBER 2024

**MAILING ADDRESS**P.O. Box Y
Akron, CO 80720**STREET ADDRESS**26862 U.S. Hwy 34
Akron, CO 80720

ph 970-345-2291
tf 800-660-2291
fax 970-345-2154
web ywelectric.coop

Y-W Electric Association, Inc.

is dedicated to providing high-quality, reliable electric service and related products to our members at competitive prices. Our members deserve and shall receive quality service unexcelled in our industry. We are committed to maintaining an environment where the Board of Directors and employees can perform at maximum potential to benefit our Y-W community.

OFFICE HOURS

7 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.
Monday – Thursday

Co-ops Power Communities with Purpose

BY TRENT LOUTENSOCK GENERAL MANAGER



TRENT LOUTENSOCK

Communities come in all shapes and sizes. Some are based on geographical proximity, some are based on shared interests, or hobbies; some communities can even be found in virtual spaces like social media groups. Regardless of where or how they are formed, communities can bring people together and create a sense of belonging.

Y-W Electric Association, Inc. is deeply committed to our members, and we're glad you are part of the electric cooperative community. *Kenneth J. and Launa F. Graton, 1231705100*

This month, more than 30,000 cooperatives across the United States are celebrating National Co-op Month. It's a time to reflect on all the aspects that set cooperatives apart from other types of businesses, but more importantly, it's a time to celebrate the power of co-op membership.

Electric cooperatives are not-for-profit utilities that are built by the communities they serve. For Y-W Electric, our mission has always been to provide you with safe, reliable, and affordable power. We care about your quality of life, and because we are locally operated, we're uniquely suited to meet your evolving energy needs. *Patrica Payne, 3716001900*

Beyond the business of electricity, our employees and directors are equally invested in our local community. Why? Because we live here, too. That's why we work hard to support local economic development projects, youth programs and scholarships, charitable giving initiatives, and additional programs that make our community a better place to call home.

All co-ops, including Y-W Electric, are guided by seven cooperative principles that embody the values and spirit of the cooperative movement. These seven principles are a framework to help all co-ops navigate challenges and opportunities while remaining true to our purpose:

- 1. Open and Voluntary Membership:** Co-op membership is open to anyone who can use the co-op's services.
- 2. Democratic Member Control:** Members make decisions that shape the cooperative. Why? Because co-ops are created by the members, for the members.
- 3. Members' Economic Participation:** Members contribute money to the co-op to make sure it runs smoothly now and in the future. At Y-W Electric, this happens through paying your energy bills.
- 4. Autonomy and Independence:** Co-ops are independent and can operate on their own, which ultimately benefits the members.
- 5. Education, Training, and Information:** Co-ops continuously focus on education to ensure employees have the training and information they need to make the co-op successful.
- 6. Cooperation Among Cooperatives:** Co-ops share with and learn from other cooperatives. We help each other out in times of need because we want other co-ops to thrive.
- 7. Concern for Community:** All cooperatives work for the greater good of the local communities they serve. Co-ops give back to their communities to help them thrive and grow.

As we celebrate National Co-op Month and the power of membership, we hope you will recognize the many aspects that set electric cooperatives apart. Our mission is reliable power. Our purpose is people — the local communities we're proud to serve.



NATIONAL FIRST RESPONDERS DAY IS OCTOBER 28

National First Responders Day, observed annually on October 28, is an excellent time to recognize and honor the vital role of first responders. They make it their business to take immediate action when disaster strikes.

First responders play a crucial role in protecting public safety and responding to emergencies. These dedicated professionals include firefighters, police officers, emergency medical technicians, and paramedics. They face numerous challenges and make significant sacrifices to safeguard our communities.

It's important to note that utility workers, including those in the electricity sector, are also considered first responders. In 2003, President George W. Bush officially recognized public works professionals as first responders, highlighting the critical role utility workers play in emergency response and recovery efforts. *Douglas D. and Erin R. Dietz, 691307201*

Utilities and first responders: An important partnership

Utility companies and traditional first responders often work hand

in hand during emergencies. When natural disasters strike or accidents occur, utility workers are frequently among the first on the scene, working alongside firefighters, police, and medical personnel to ensure public safety and restore essential services.

When traffic accidents, high winds, ice storms, and other events involve downed power lines or power outages, they can cause both visible and hidden hazards that can put everyone at risk. It's important for utility workers and other first responders to work together to minimize risk. *Black Wolf Family Trust, 1260500201*

First responders have a critical role in keeping communities safe. National First Responders Day serves as a reminder of the importance of collaboration, preparedness, and mutual support in times of crisis.

To all who selflessly serve as first responders to keep us safe — we share gratitude on National First Responders Day and every other day of the year.

Learn more at SafeElectricity.org.

Attention High School Juniors: Win a Trip Next Summer!

Next summer, one winner chosen from the applicants will join other delegates from Colorado electric co-ops and co-ops across the United States the week of June 16-22, 2025.

A week of activities begins in Denver on June 16. Delegates will visit the Colorado Capitol before heading to Washington, D.C. Once in Washington, D.C., students will meet many of our Colorado congressional members and learn about electric cooperatives and the issues facing the electric industry today.

There will plenty of time for fun and touring. The lucky student chosen to represent Y-W Electric will visit Mount Vernon, the National Cathedral, the Holocaust Museum, Arlington National Cemetery, and the Library of Congress. Stroll through the Smithsonian museums, visit the monuments and memorials, and much more. *Eleazar Lujan, 4235004008*

There will be an opportunity to learn about electricity generation, transmission, and distribution, while having the time of your life with more than 1,500 other students. An evening at the theatre and a cruise on the Potomac River are also part of this once-in-a-lifetime experience that creates many memories to bring home and share.

All expenses for the Washington D.C. Youth Tour are covered by Y-W Electric Association. The parent or guardian of an applicant must be a member of Y-W and/or directly receive electric power from Y-W Electric.



Applications are available on our website at ywelectric.coop beginning in this month. The selection process is conducted like a job interview.

For more information, please see your school guidance counselor or call Andy Molt at Y-W Electric at 970-345-2291; he will be happy to answer any questions. **The application deadline is December 19.**

DON'T MISS OUT ON COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIPS FROM Y-W ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION FOR 2025!

GET YOUR APPLICATIONS IN PRIOR TO THE DEADLINE TO COMPETE FOR THE FOLLOWING SCHOLARSHIPS*

Y-W Electric \$1,000/year scholarship, renewable up to \$4,000

Y-W Electric \$1,000 scholarship

Basin Electric Power Cooperative \$1,000 scholarship

Y-W Electric \$500 scholarship

Y-W Electric \$500 continuing education scholarship

Tri-State Generation and Transmission \$500 scholarship

Y-W Electric \$1,000 line technician training scholarship

**Y-W Electric Scholarships are funded by Unclaimed Capital Credits Account*

For more information please see your guidance counselor or call Andy Molt at Y-W Electric Assn., 970-345-2291. We will be happy to answer any questions.

TO QUALIFY FOR THESE SCHOLARSHIPS:

- Your parents or guardians must receive electric service from Y-W Electric Association.
- You must be a student graduating from a local high school or approved home schooling program or be a continuing college student.
- You must maintain full time resident student status.
- Semesters must be continuous excluding summer.
- You must provide a copy of your grade transcript to Y-W at the end of each semester to receive renewable funding for specific scholarships.
- You must maintain minimum GPA requirements.
- Applications are now available on our website at ywelectric.coop.
- Applications must be emailed or delivered to Y-W prior to 5 p.m. January 30, 2025.
- Applications received after January 30, 2025 WILL NOT BE CONSIDERED.



**ELECTRIC
ASSOCIATION, INC.**

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative



COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE THROUGH Y-W ELECTRIC



APPLY TODAY!





During the week of July 12-17, 2025, about one hundred students who are selected and sponsored by rural electric cooperatives from all over Colorado, Kansas, Wyoming, and Oklahoma attend Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp.

The camp takes place near Steamboat Springs and is designed to help students develop leadership skills to handle the challenges of the future. The camp also provides a better understanding of power generation and the rural electric cooperative program. The camp — run by the campers — is a lot of fun. Campers have plenty of time for volleyball, swimming, whitewater rafting, dancing, a banquet, talent show, and meeting many new friends.

- All expenses for Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp are covered by Y-W Electric Association. The parent or guardian of the student applicant must be a member of Y-W and/or directly receive electric power from Y-W Electric.
- Applications are available on our website at ywelectric.coop beginning in this month. The selection process is conducted like a job interview.

For more information, please see your school guidance counselor or call Andy Molt at Y-W Electric at 970-345-2291; he will be happy to answer any questions.

The application deadline is December 19.

BILLING CORNER

Smart Hub Bill Pay & More

For convenience, Y-W Electric Association offers members the ability to pay their bill electronically through the SmartHub app with a credit card, debit card, or checking account.

SmartHub is also a great place to get account information, about billing history, usage, payment history, and past billing invoices. There is also a link to sign up for auto payment.

Reporting an outage is also available on SmartHub. Your outage report goes directly to the Y-W Electric Operations Department in an email, leaving our phone lines open for those who do not have SmartHub available.

SmartHub is compatible with iPhones and Android devices. Check our website at ywelectric.coop for more information.

Safety Tip

In the U.S., nine people are killed each day in crashes that are reported to involve a distracted driver. When you drive, just drive. Distracted driving not only puts you and other drivers at risk, but it also endangers roadside crews, bikers and pedestrians.



Safe Electricity.org®

Win a Bill Credit

Each month, Y-W Electric Association offers its members a chance to earn a \$20 credit on their next electric bill. If you find your name and account number in this magazine, call 800-660-2291 and ask for your credit. It couldn't be easier.

Get acquainted with your account number, read your *Colorado Country Life* magazine, and pick up the phone. You must claim your credit during the month in which your name appears in the magazine. (Check the date on the front cover.)

Winners claiming \$20 from the August 2024 issue: Larry and Patricia Champ, Sherry Hinkle, David Hansen, Luis F. True