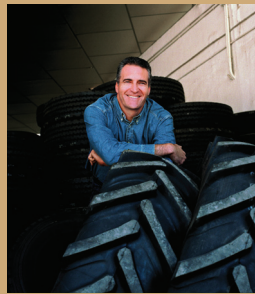




Member Contact



Boone Electric Cooperative's Monthly Newsletter

January 2012

Tomorrow's Leaders



High School Juniors, it's time to begin planning your summer. Let Boone Electric Cooperative send you on an expense-paid trip to Washington, D.C., in June.

The Cooperative will send up to four high school juniors to Youth Tour, a week-long leadership opportunity, with more than 80 other Missouri students. Youth Tour delegates tour all the famous landmarks in the nation's capital, meet our national elected officials and hear from some incredible motivational speakers.

Applying is easy. Simply fill out the Youth Tour application and return it to Boone Electric by March 13. Find a copy of the application in your high school counselor's office or at our website at www.booneelectric.coop. The competition is open to all high school juniors in the Boone Electric service territory, including homeschool students.

Ten finalists will compete in an interview competition in April to determine the four students going to Washington D.C. The other six finalists each receive a \$250 college scholarship.

You too, Sophomores

High School Sophomores have a similar leadership opportunity. Boone Electric will send up to six sophomores to Jefferson City for Cooperative Youth Conference & Leadership Experience (CYCLE) in July. CYCLE is very much like Youth Tour, only on a state level. Students will learn about state government and hear from a fantastic slate of speakers.

Visit your high school guidance counselor or the Cooperative website for a CYCLE application.



Energy Savings From Bulb Exchange Program

Over the past four years, Boone Electric distributed more than 47,000 compact fluorescent bulbs to cooperative members. Our members, using those bulbs rather than incandescent bulbs, will save enough energy to power the equivalent of 1,600 homes for one full year.

The bulb exchange program has ended at Boone Electric, but we encourage members to use the more energy efficient bulbs whenever possible.

Energy Tip of the Month



Switch to energy-saving halogen incandescent lightbulbs to cut lighting energy use by 25 percent. These bulbs last three times longer than traditional incandescent bulbs and can easily be dimmed. Want to save more? Compact fluorescent lamps (CFLs) and light-emitting diodes (LEDs) cut lighting energy use by at least 75 percent. Learn more at energysavers.gov.

Source:
U.S. Department of Energy

Office Closings:

Boone Electric Cooperative will be closed:

Monday, January 16 -- for All Employee Training

Monday, February 13 -- in honor of President's Day

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Pharmacy Savings

Can the Co-op Connections Card save you money at the pharmacy? Be sure to check each time you get a prescription. The Co-op Connections Card might be a better deal than your insurance. Ask the pharmacist to compare prices for you. There is a set of numbers on the back of the card that the pharmacist will use to determine which option is better for you. Remember, the card is not insurance.



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Debunking Energy Myths

Are you interested in saving energy to lower your electric bill, but confused about new technology and information available to help you do so? Separate fact from fiction with the following energy-saving myths.

Myth #1: It takes less energy to have my thermostat maintain a comfortable temperature while I'm away than it does to have it heat up or cool down my house when I get home.

If you are going to be gone for more than a few hours, then it is more cost-effective to adjust heat or air conditioning once you return than it is to maintain a comfortable temperature while you are out.

Energy Star® recommends adjusting your thermostat up in the summer and down in the winter by 8 degrees Fahrenheit while you are sleeping or away from your house. Be sure not to turn the heat down so low that the water pipes are in jeopardy of freezing.

Myth #2: When I turn off electronics (like my TV, game console, or computer) they stop drawing power from the outlet.

Even when turned off, most modern electronics consume a small amount of electricity if they are still plugged in. Chargers for mobile devices also consume electricity if plugged in, even when they are not actively charging the device. This wasted energy, called "phantom load," accounts for as much as 10 percent of a home's total electric use. The solution -- unplug your electronics when you finish using them. Using a power strip can help you conveniently unplug multiple devices at once, while "smart" power strips can automatically cut off phantom loads on their own.

Myth #3: Compact fluorescent lightbulbs (CFLs) take forever to reach full brilliance, have inadequate light quality or unpleasant color and make no difference on my utility bill.

As with many products, CFLs vary in quality. Color and brightness differ across manufacturers, and some bulbs simply work better than others. Looking for the Energy Star symbol ensures that you are purchasing a high-quality product. Also, be sure to install CFLs in fixtures that remain on for long periods, or that you use often, to get the maximum energy savings out of your bulbs. In addition, specialty CFLs are available for applications such as spotlighting or bathroom vanity fixtures.

Myth #4: It is not worth my time or money to seal small air leaks around my windows and doors, or to make sure my home is adequately insulated.

According to Energy Star, air leaks around cracks and gaps throughout your home become the equivalent of leaving a window open all year long. Typical homeowners can save up to 10 percent on their total annual energy bill by sealing and insulating their home.

Boone Electric Cooperative offers rebates to assist in making your home tighter and more energy efficient. Call the Member Services Department at (573) 449-4181 for details on the rebate programs.

Scholarship Deadline Set

Each year the Boone Electric Community Trust provides 12 scholarships worth \$2,000 each to eligible college and college-bound students. One scholarship is given to a graduating senior at each of the eight high schools in the Boone Electric service territory. Four at-large scholarships are awarded to non-traditional students. High school seniors should visit their guidance counselor for an application and deadlines. Those applying for at-large scholarships should visit www.booneelectric.coop for an application or stop by the Boone Electric office. At-large applications are due March 23.