

POWER LINE

June 2020



Redwood Electric Cooperative

60 Pine Street • Clements, Minnesota 56224

2020 Youth Tour Trip Winner

Redwood Electric Cooperative is honored to announce Meriah Kirschstein as our 2020 Washington, D.C. Youth Tour \$2500 Scholarship. Meriah recently graduated from Springfield Public High School and is the daughter of Matthew and Kathy Kirschstein of Sanborn.

Second place winner is Konnor Zick of Milroy (\$200 cash prize), and third place winner is Laruen Zick of Milroy (\$100 cash prize).

Normally students would be anxiously preparing for the 56th annual Washington, D.C. Youth Tour Trip June 20-25th, instead, the trip was cancelled due to COVID-19. Electric coops around the nation are replacing the trip with scholarships to the current high school seniors and extending the trip for next year to high school juniors. Redwood Electric's scholarship committee decided to award Meriah with a scholarship for \$2500, which is the cost of the trip, because she is not eligible to go next year.

The annual Washington, D.C. Youth Tour is truly a once-in-a-lifetime event for most high school students. Since 1964, America's electric cooperatives have sent students to our nation's capital to give future leaders in co-op communities a front-row seat to American government. Youth Tour participants are the bright light for our future and become leaders in their communities. Minnesota sent 39 students to Washington last year, part of a record 1,900+ students from across the nation who participated in the 2019 Youth Tour. The Electric Cooperative Youth Tour has brought high school students to Washington, D.C. for over 50 years with a total of over 50,000 students participating in the trip since its creation.



Congratulations

**REDWOOD ELECTRIC'S 2020 MEMBER
ENERGY TOUR IS CANCELLED DUE TO
COVID-19**

TRIP CANCELLED

OUR LOBBY IS OPEN!

Members will need to follow the specific safety guidelines listed below before entering our office and while in our office.

EFFECTIVE JUNE 1, 2020

Redwood Electric Cooperative Safety Guidelines

To ensure the safety of our customers and staff we ask that you:

- 1. STAY HOME WHEN ILL**-Please DO NOT come into the office if you or anyone in your home is ill or experiencing any symptoms like a fever or cough. Cover your mouth and nose when you cough/sneeze or use the inside of your elbow.
- 2. MAINTAIN SOCIAL DISTANCING** while in our office by allowing 6 feet of space between yourself and others.
- 3. NO MORE THAN 2 CUSTOMERS IN THE LOBBY AT A TIME**-You will be asked to wait outside, or in your vehicle, if our lobby has reached that customer capacity.
- 4. MINIMIZE THE SPREADING OF GERMS**-Please use the hand sanitizer at the front desk, and if you use a pen from our office please take it home with you.



Thank you for your cooperation!

Need help paying your energy bills?

Emergency energy-assistance funds are available. You must **apply by July 1st** and it's first come first served. **Additional funds (even if you previously received energy-assistance dollars) and higher limits exist now.** Apply if you are newly unemployed, households with young children, people with disabilities, veterans and seniors. Visit the state's website <https://mn.gov/commerce/media/news> or call your local agency to see the program details.

Redwood County and Lyon County residents should contact United Community Action at any of the following numbers: 507-537-1416•507-637-2187•320-235-0850.

Brown County residents should contact Minnesota Valley Action Council (MVAC) services at: 1-800-767-7139 or 507-345-6822.

Redwood Electric is committed to helping our members. We are currently suspending late fees and have made changes to our disconnect process. We do ask that you work with our office by continuing to make your payments, if you are able, and to contact us if you need to make other arrangements. If you have any questions about your bill or about any notices you are receiving, PLEASE contact our office so we can help answer your questions. Redwood Electric is here to help you!

Military families that are struggling to pay your electric bill and have been issued orders into active duty please call our office at 507-692-2214 or email sgroebner@redwoodelectric.com to make arrangements.

Be Safe & Prepared for Severe Storms

Severe storms are more common in the spring and summer, but can occur anytime of year. Make sure you are prepared and know how to stay safe.

Stay Safe: When venturing outside, stay away from downed power lines and be alert to the possibility that tree limbs or debris may be covering an electrical hazard. If you are driving and see a downed power line or hit a pole and the power lines are damaged, stay in your vehicle, warn others to stay away and contact our office and emergency personnel.

If you have medical devices that are life sustaining and run off electricity, have livestock or to keep sump pumps running; you might want to look into getting a generator.

REC cannot predict the weather or know the working conditions that can affect the length of outages.



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Save time. Avoid service interruptions. Eliminate late fees.

With SmartHub, you'll be notified when your bill is due and can pay securely online or in the app, anytime, anywhere.

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Can You Dig It?



An underground utility line is **damaged once every 9 minutes** because someone didn't call 811.



Call 811, the "Call Before You Dig Number," at least **2 business days** prior to digging.



811 locators **do not detect** underground sprinkler systems, invisible fences, data communication systems, private water systems, or gas piping to a garage.



Even if you have previously had underground utilities marked, **utilities can shift**, so it's best to call before starting a new project.



Once **all of your utilities** have been located, then you can start your digging project!

Learn more at



Office Hours & Contact Information

Monday-Friday 7:00 AM-3:30 PM

Phone: (888) 251-5100

Email address: office@redwoodelectric.com

Web: www.redwoodelectric.com

Pay By Phone: 844-846-2696

SmartHub Link: <https://redwoodelectric.smarthub.coop>

OUTAGES

(507) 692-2214 or (888) 251-5100
24 HOURS A DAY

CALL BEFORE YOU DIG

Gopher State One

Call (800) 252-1166

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STATEMENT OF NON-DISCRIMINATION

Redwood Electric Cooperative is an equal opportunity provider and employer. If you wish to file a Civil Rights program complaint of discrimination, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form found online at http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html, or at any USDA office, or call (866) 632-9992 to request the form. You may also write a letter containing all of the information requested in the form. Send your completed complaint form or letter by mail to:

U.S. Department of Agriculture, Director, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, by fax (202) 690-7442 or email at program.intake@usda.gov.

**Our office will be closed on
July 3rd for Independence Day**

Happy
4th of July