

VVEC's 2026 YouthPower Energy Camp Essay Contest Rules and Regulations

NEW THIS YEAR: We are promoting this contest to current year **7th grade** students. Please

make note! Camp dates are May 26-28th, 2026. The awarded students attending camp are 100% sponsored by Verdigris Valley Electric Cooperative. We take care of it all!

(transport/food/lodging)

What could I win? YouthPower Energy Camp is an all-expense-paid 3-day long [FREE] action-packed adventure for 7th graders from across the state during the summer of 2026. This is sponsored by Oklahoma's Electric Cooperatives.

What happens at camp? Approximately 70, 7th graders from across Oklahoma come together and experience so much; a high-voltage demo, connect with other campers, become energy experts, see the life of a line worker, learn about electricity, electrical safety, Electric Cooperatives and how they work, tap into their leadership and team building skills through exciting workshops, forge friendships, watch coop crews in action and so much more!!

TEACHER INCENTIVE: We are encouraging area schools to get involved. If a teacher administers this essay contest as part of a whole classroom assignment and produces a contest finalist, he or she could be rewarded with \$100.00 toward the purchase of classroom materials or equipment and be featured in VVEC's Newsletter and/or Facebook page. We'd love your participation!!

Contest Requirements:

- 1) You must currently be a 7th grader & attend a school in Verdigris Valley Electric Cooperative's service territory. It's not necessary that the student's parents be members of VVEC.
- 2) Essay is to be typed and a minimum of **250** words in length.
- 3) Be original and factual, tell us your story using your own words, not A.I.

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- 4) You can write the essay as an individual or with a classmate as a 2-student team. If your essay is selected as one of the 2 winning essays, then you and your co-writer will both win the trip, attending camp together.
- 5) Your name should not appear on the essay itself. Instead, attach a cover sheet that has your name, teacher's name, teacher's contact information and school name on it. Also, complete and submit the Energy Camp entry form/application along with your cover sheet and essay.
- 6) Essay Topic: **"Why are Electric Cooperatives important in my life and in my community?"**
- 7) Deadline to submit cover sheet, essay and entry form/application is Monday, April 6th, 2026, no later than 4:00 pm.
- 8) Essay can be submitted one of 3 ways; hand delivery in person to VVEC's headquarters in Collinsville, by email or by U.S. Postal Mail. (**Important!!** If mailing, you must send to PO BOX, not physical address.)
- 9) **Also Important!** Be prepared to commit to attending an all-expense-paid trip to YouthPower Energy Camp MAY 26th – 28th, 2026 if you are selected as a finalist in the essay contest.

There will be two (2) top winning essays selected and those finalists will win the all-expense-paid trip to Energy Camp.

ESSAY DEADLINE: 4 p.m. Monday, April 6th, 2026.

For More Contest Details: www.vvec.com – Community Programs – YouthPower Energy Camp

For More information, contact:

Misti Frazier or Suzy McClain, Youth Programs Coordinators, Verdigris Valley Electric Coop.

Mailing: PO BOX 219 Collinsville, OK 74021 **Physical Address:** 8901 E 146th St N

Collinsville, OK 74021 Ph 918-371-2584 Mon-Fri, 7:30am – 4pm **Email:** mfrazier@vvec.com or smcclain@vvec.com. Contact us today to schedule an "in-person" class presentation of this contest!