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A Supplement to Oklahoma Living.

Calling All Former Youth Tour Winners to the 50 Year Reunion! p. 3

Juniors can Spend an All-Expense Paid Week Touring Washington, D.C.

Visiting the nation's capital is a great way to start summer vacation, and VVEC can be your ticket to the trip of a lifetime. Two high school juniors will spend a fun-filled week in Washington, D.C. in June with young people from across the nation as winners of VVEC's annual Youth Tour essay contest.

To compete, students must be juniors this year, single, and attending high school in VVEC's service territory. Their parents do not have to be members of VVEC for them to participate in this program.

Students are required to write an essay of between 600 and 800 words on a specific co-op related topic. The topic, along with the program's rules and regulations, are detailed in the Youth Tour Information Packet, which is available this month from schools' English teachers or on VVEC's Web site at www.VVEC.com.

"This year's topic spotlights the core philosophy of cooperatives," explains VVEC Youth Tour Coordinator Kay Rabbitt-Brower. "We want students to learn about the mission of electric cooperatives. The topic

is 'Who Owns VVEC and What are the Advantages of Cooperative Ownership?'"

Deadline to submit essays to the co-op is 4 p.m. Friday, March 1.

Essays are judged on command of subject, strength of ideas, style, and writing convention and grammar by a panel of independent judges. Youth Tour judging determines four finalists who compete in the final level of competition where they give oral

presentations of their essays.

The two highest scoring finalists win the all expense-paid trip to Washington, D. C. and the two alternates will each receive a \$500 scholarship.

If you have questions about Youth Tour or want to obtain an information packet, please contact Rabbitt-Brower at (918)371-2584, Monday through Friday, 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Energy Camp Great Fun for 8th Graders

If you are an 8th grader, have you given any thought to what you are going to do this summer? VVEC can help you kick-off your summer with fun, new friends and lots of memories.


YouthPower Energy Camp is four days with young people your age learning about electric cooperatives by forming a Coke and Candy Co-op, climbing a utility pole, and riding high in a bucket truck.

You will also get to go swimming, spend an evening at Celebration Station in Oklahoma City, and tour a generation and transmission cooperative.

The camp is held each year at Camp Canyon near Hinton.

Eighth graders wanting to participate in our Energy Camp competition are asked to write a 300 word essay on "What Will Electricity be like in the Future and How Will It Affect Our Lives?"

Deadline to submit essays to the co-op is 4 p.m. Friday, March 1. You can write your essay with a friend as a team, and then both of you can attend the camp as winners of VVEC's program.

This year's Energy Camp is May 28-31. For more information, contact VVEC's Energy Camp Coordinator Kay Rabbitt-Brower at (918) 371-2584. 

Green Country Co-ops Support Members at Tulsa Farm Show

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Monday through Friday

Editor - Kay Rabbitt-Brower



Member Services Representative Chub Brewer visits with VVEC member Kelly Vinson during the Tulsa Farm Show in early December. VVEC joined other Green Country electric co-ops to meet with members at the annual trade show. This is the first time the co-ops have sponsored a booth at the show. 

Winter Residential Rates

October through March usage,
November through April billing

Customer Charge \$20.20

Energy Charge

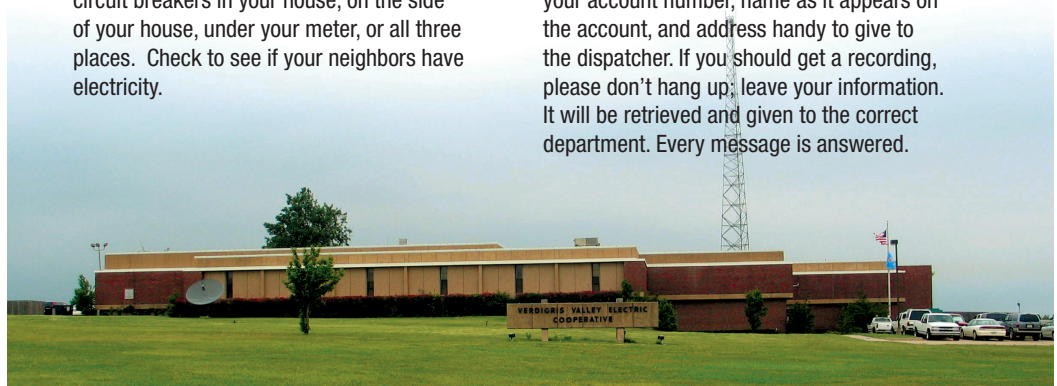
1st 1,000 kWh \$0.0738/kWh
Over 1,000 kWh \$0.0678/kWh

A power cost adjustment (PCA) will be applied to all bills when the actual cost of power purchased exceeds or is less than 55.993 mills per kWh.

In addition, a gross receipts tax of 2% of revenue will be included, plus additional taxes if applicable.

What to do if Your Power Goes Off

1. Check your fuses or circuit breakers. Every service is different. You may have fuses or circuit breakers in your house, on the side of your house, under your meter, or all three places. Check to see if your neighbors have electricity.
2. Call the Co-op at 371-2584, or 1-800-870-5948 if the call is long distance for you. Have your account number, name as it appears on the account, and address handy to give to the dispatcher. If you should get a recording, please don't hang up; leave your information. It will be retrieved and given to the correct department. Every message is answered.



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Calling All Former Youth Tour Winners!

Youth Tour Planning 50 Year Reunion

The Oklahoma Association of Electric Cooperatives, in conjunction with participating electric cooperatives across the state, is coordinating a 50 Year Reunion Celebration of the Washington, D.C. Youth Tour program. The reunion will be held Saturday, July 13 in Oklahoma City.

Senator Lyndon B. Johnson inspired Youth Tour when he addressed the National Rural Electric Cooperatives Association (NRECA) Annual Meeting in Chicago in 1957. The Senator and future President declared, "If one thing goes out of this meeting, it will be sending youngsters to the national capitol where they can actually see what the flag stands for and represents."

The idea grew and finally, in 1964, NRECA began to coordinate joint activities among the state delegations and suggested co-op representatives from each state arrange to be in Washington, D. C. during Youth Tour week. That tradition continues today, almost 50 years later. Today, over 1,500 students and 250 chaperones participate in Youth Tour annually, with over 70 students from Oklahoma attending each year. In all, Oklahoma's electric cooperatives have sponsored over 2,600 students since 1964.

All former Youth Tour alumni are invited to the reunion in Oklahoma City. The exact location is yet to be determined, but updates will be sent as soon as plans are confirmed. Each sponsoring co-op is assisting in finding former participants and reunion registration information is available on the OAEC Web site at www.oaec.coop. There is no charge for former Youth Tour participants to attend the reunion, and only a small fee for their guests.

You can also join the Facebook

group, Oklahoma Youth Tour 50 Year Reunion at <http://www.facebook.com/groups/101798696649017/#!/groups/1017986649017/>.

The program plans include visits from Randy Dwyer, NRECA's Youth Tour Director, and other speakers. A photo booth will be available to take party pics and an all-year video

is planned. Lunch will be included and awards will be given during the program.

If you need further information or would like to share contact information of a former participant or chaperone, please contact OAEC Youth Tour Coordinator Jennifer Dempsey at 405-607-0161 or jdempsey@OAEC.coop.

Letter to the Editor



Dear Editor,

Thanks again for a good (annual) meeting. We always enjoy meeting old and new friends while enjoying the donuts and coffee. And, of course, we've known (entertainer) Paul Bogart all his life and love he and his family, and his wife Tanya.

Signed,
Charles and Norma Lee Ward



Energy Efficiency

Tip of the Month

Your heat pump can use 10 percent to 25 percent more energy if it's not properly maintained, which includes regularly checking and replacing the air filter when it's dirty to keep parts from working too hard or even becoming damaged. Keep brush and plants tidy around the outdoor unit, and dust the return registers inside. For more details on heat pump maintenance, visit EnergySavers.gov.

Source: U.S. Department of Energy



Student Video Challenge Focuses on Geothermal Technology

Through the use of video and social media, junior and senior high school students have a unique opportunity to showcase their creativity and compete for close to \$60,000 in scholarship dollars and grants. The Go Go Geo Scholarship Video Challenge will officially be launched to schools on Jan. 7, 2013; however, information is already available via the contest web-site – <http://www.GoGoGeoChallenge/>.

Touchstone Energy Cooperatives are the title sponsor for this event, with geothermal manufacturers, including ClimateMaster, Bosch and WaterFurnace, as so-sponsors. VVEC is a member of this Touchstone Energy Cooperative alliance.

Eligible students will be challenged

to use their creativity in the production of a one to three minute video. Seven message themes have been created for the contest, with


each having a geothermal significance. Information on the contest Web site will offer participants a general understanding of each theme.

The challenge will consist of a Regional Competition, which will divide contestants into five regions, based on zip code. The top winner from each region will advance to the Final Competition to compete for even more scholarship dollars. In the final competition, the five winners will meet with judges in Oklahoma City for the final scoring and winner announcement.

Any high school junior or senior residing in Oklahoma is eligible to participate. A list of eligible zip codes is posted on the

contest Web site. For team entries, scholarship funds will be distributed equally, if their entry is designated as the winner. Teams are limited to three persons.

“VVEC is excited to be partnering with other Oklahoma Touchstone Energy cooperatives in this exciting project for high school juniors and seniors,” says VVEC General Manager Alice Houston. “This contest could not come at a better time. The advancement of geothermal technology is quickly making this option very viable for many homeowners, who may be interested in making a change to a more affordable, energy-efficient heating and cooling system.”

For more information on this program, contact VVEC’s Communications Specialist Kay Rabbitt-Brower at 918-371-2584, ext. 6214. 



RECIPE

Taco Soup

- 1 lb. ground beef chuck
- 1 onion, chopped
- 3 15.5-oz. cans Mexican-style chili beans
- 14.5-oz. can diced tomatoes
- 15-oz. can tomato sauce
- 4.5-oz. can diced green chilies
- 1-oz. pkg. Ranch salad dressing mix
- 1.5 cups water

Garnish: shredded lettuce, chopped tomato, sour cream, shredded Cheddar cheese, corn chips

In a Dutch oven, over medium-high heat, cook beef and onion until beef is browned and onion is tender. Drain. Stir in remaining ingredients except garnish; do not drain vegetables. Bring to a boil. Reduce heat and simmer, uncovered, 15 minutes, stirring occasionally. Spoon soup into bowls; garnish with desired toppings.

YIELD: 10 to 12 servings.