



# POWERLINES

March 2023

Official Newsletter of Tri-State Electric Membership Corporation

## Tri-State EMC Accepting Essays for 2023 Washington Youth Tour

**E**ach year, three high school juniors from Copper Basin High School, Fannin County High School and Hiwassee Dam High School have an incredible chance to spend a week in our nation's capital getting a front-row seat to government, leadership and public policy.

The Washington Youth Tour, sponsored by Tri-State EMC and the Tennessee Electric Cooperative Association, provides young leaders with an opportunity to explore Washington, D.C., learn about government and cooperatives, and develop their leadership skills.

Students are selected for the trip by writing a short story titled "Electric Cooperatives-Going Beyond the Wires," which explains how co-ops provide communities with much more than electric power.

Youth Tour delegates also have an opportunity to win a share of \$16,000 in scholarships from Tri-State EMC and Tennessee's electric cooperatives.

"The Youth Tour is an incredible opportunity for students to actually experience history up close and personal," says Chris Hulsey, Tri-State EMC Human Resources Manager. "Delegates experience a whirlwind of a week, visiting museums, monuments and other landmarks."

Former U.S. President Lyndon Johnson inspired the tour in 1957, when he encouraged electric cooperatives to send youngsters to the nation's capital. In the years since, more than 6,000 young Tennesseans have been delegates for the Washington Youth Tour.

"Our commitment to community is what sets cooperatives apart from other businesses," says Stacy Chastain, Tri-State EMC General Manager. "The Washington Youth Tour is one way we show youth in our service area that their co-op is more than their electricity provider. We genuinely care about the prosperity of our communities, and that includes providing special opportunities for these exceptional students and preparing them for future success."

Contact Tri-State EMC with any questions about the 2023 Youth Tour at (706) 492-3251.



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*This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.*



# Go Green This St. Patrick's Day

**W**ant to go green this St. Patrick's Day? Start by saving energy, which is a great way to be kind to the environment. Here are 10 easy, zero-cost ways to add a little "green" around the house:

1. Turn off lights when you leave a room or go to bed. Lighting an empty room is a waste of resources and money.
2. Load up the dishwasher before turning it on. You'll use less energy if you run the appliance only when it's full. However, don't overload the dishwasher, as water needs room to get between plates, glasses and silverware to do its best work.
3. Wash clothes in cold water. Most of the energy your washing machine uses is for heating water.
4. Take showers, not baths. Showers use less water than filling a bathtub. And keep your showers to 10 minutes long to save even more water.
5. Unplug appliances when you're not using them. Appliances continue to use small amounts of electricity when they're plugged in, even if they're turned off.
6. On warm spring days, turn off the heat and open the windows.



7. Lower the thermostat on your water heater to 120 degrees. That's the safe temperature recommended by manufacturers.
8. Close the damper of your wood-burning fireplace when you're not using it. An open damper in an unused fireplace sends heated air from your home up the chimney.
9. Move furniture away from heating and air-conditioning vents. If you block them, your HVAC system has to work harder to heat or cool your house. The harder it works, the more energy it uses.
10. Switch the directions your ceiling fan blades spin: counter-clockwise during the summer and clockwise in the winter.

## How to Dispose of Electronics

If you're collecting broken and outdated computers, monitors, microwaves and vacuum cleaners because you don't know what to do with them, here are some tips for safe disposal of electronics:

- Determine whether the appliance still works or if you're getting rid of a device that still operates but doesn't suit your needs or the style of a remodeled kitchen, for example. If it still works, try selling it at a yard sale, online auction or on social media, or donating it to a local church or charity that can give it to someone who can't afford to buy one.
- Contact the manufacturer of the item or store where you bought it and ask about a trade-in program. Some retailers offer a discount on new computers, cellphones, speakers and tablets if you trade in your old one for a newer model.
- Reach out to your community's public works department to schedule a special pickup. Reveal which electronic items you will be leaving out; disposing of those devices can be more difficult than other household items.
- Find a household hazardous waste facility that will pick up your items or accept them at a drop-off location.

### What not to do with unwanted electronics:

- Do not throw them in the trash with other household waste.
- Don't send thermometers or other electronics containing lead or mercury to the landfill.
- Avoid trashing perfectly good items just because you have upgraded to newer ones. Local charities, and even some of your neighbors, will take them off your hands and get plenty of use out of them.

