

Scholars Recognized



From left, Jerry Pack, Tri-State EMC Board Chair; Stacy Chastain, Tri-State EMC General Manager; Connor Land, Guest Speaker and Field Representative for U.S. Congressman Andrew Clyde; and honor students Abigail Lee, Kalli Hagelin, Madeline Schueneman, Heath Bradburn, Raegan Farner and Angela Graves.

Tri-State EMC recently held its annual Honors Night Dinner in recognition of the top students at three area schools.

Heath Bradburn, Raegan Farner, Angela Graves, Kalli Hagelin, Abigail Lee and Madeline Schueneman were recognized at the night's event, and each were given a \$1,000 scholarship from Tri-State EMC.

Students were treated to a catered dinner followed by a brief speech by Connor Land, Field Representative for U.S. Congressman Andrew Clyde.

Tri-State EMC commends these young adults on their hard work and wishes them much success in the future.



Congratulations, Students!

Copper Basin High School

Raegan Farner, *Valedictorian*
Angela Graves, *Salutatorian*

Fannin County High School

Madeline Schueneman, *Valedictorian*
Heath Bradburn, *Salutatorian*

Hiwassee Dam High School

Abigail Lee, *Top Student*
Kalli Hagelin, *Top Student*

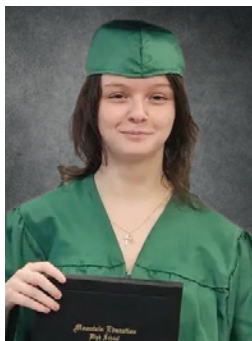
Operation Round Up Grants Scholarships



Braxton Cheatham
Fannin County High School



Logan Cochran
Copper Basin High School



Savannah Cook
*Mountain Education
Charter School*



Elizabeth Millwood
Copper Basin High School



Sarah Hall
Hiwassee Dam High School

In 2013, the Operation Round Up (ORU) Board made the decision to grant each school a \$500 scholarship to benefit a vocational student from each of the area schools in order to help these students further their education. The ORU Board also elected to allow each school's scholarship committee to decide on the scholarship recipient. These scholarships are fine examples of where and how funds from Operation Round Up are used to benefit the communities we serve.

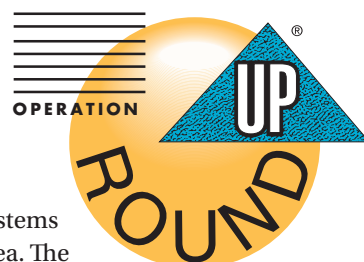
Five local area students recently received these well-deserved scholarships from the Operation Round Up program. Elizabeth Millwood and Logan Cochran from Copper Basin High School, Sarah Hall from Hiwassee Dam High School, Braxton Cheatham from Fannin County High School and Savannah Cook from Mountain Education Charter School each received a scholarship

from the Tri-State EMC Operation Round Up program.

All of the money collected through Operation Round Up supports nonprofit groups, charities and school systems in the Tri-State EMC service area. The money comes from Tri-State EMC members who round their bill up to the next whole dollar each billing cycle.

Once a month, the Tri-State EMC Foundation Board meets to consider grant requests and distributes funds.

Thank you to all of the Tri-State EMC members who participate in Operation Round Up and help make these scholarships possible.



Energy Efficiency *Tip of the Month*

Running multiple major appliances at the same time—like your dishwasher, laundry machines and oven—can spike energy demand and strain the grid, especially during peak hours (typically late afternoon to early evening). Instead of stacking appliance use, spread it out throughout the day or shift chores to off-peak hours when energy demand is lower. This not only helps improve overall efficiency but can also reduce your energy costs. A simple habit change, like doing laundry in the morning and running the dishwasher overnight, can make a meaningful difference for both your wallet and energy reliability.



Fast Facts About Lineworkers

You probably don't think about them until your power goes out, but electric lineworkers protect our homes and communities 24 hours a day. Like other first responders who keep us safe, lineworkers endure all kinds of weather and challenging conditions.

On April 13, we celebrate Lineworker Appreciation Day to honor the men and women who power our lives. Here are some quick facts about lineworkers and the work they do:

Lineworker history

Lineworkers first appeared during the 1840s rush to spread telegraph service across the U.S., stringing wires between trees and other natural objects. It didn't take long for everyone to realize tall poles were safer and more practical.

What electric lineworkers do

Restoring electricity after a power outage is just one of the many duties of lineworkers, who also:

- Install and connect new power lines to homes and businesses;
- Maintain and upgrade the electric grid;
- Diagnose and pinpoint power-delivery issues;
- Plan and manage large-scale projects; and
- Ensure safe work practices in often challenging conditions.

Lineworkers are responsible for maintaining and upgrading the nation's electric grid, which connects more than 7,300 power plants to 145 million consumers through 60,000 miles of high-voltage lines, millions of miles of distribution lines and more than 50 million transformers.

In Georgia, EMC lineworkers maintain the largest distribution network in the state with 196,921 miles of electric power lines in 157 of 159 counties.

Geared for safety

Lineworkers climb with up to 40 pounds of safety gear and tools. Here's what they typically wear to stay safe while working:

- Hard hats
- Safety glasses
- Clothing that protects against flames and arc flashes
- Rubber gloves and sleeves
- Climbing belts
- Fall-protection harnesses



One hot stick

One essential tool for lineworkers is the hot stick, an insulated fiberglass pole used to safely move energized wires and other equipment. Hot sticks vary in size, depending on the job.



The wild side of work

Snakes and squirrels can climb poles or jump onto poles from nearby trees and are a major cause of power outages. Lineworkers encounter plenty of both while working.

They've also been known to rescue kittens that climbed too high in trees and curious bear cubs that reach the tops of utility poles. Lineworkers have used bucket trucks to make these rescues.

When your office is outdoors, these encounters are part of the job.

Wired for competition

Many lineworkers enjoy showing off their skills at lineman rodeos. These competitions provide the public with an opportunity to see what it takes to get the job done. For lineworkers, rodeos help inspire camaraderie and strengthen passion for the trade.

In 2026, Georgia's Lineman Rodeo was May 1-2 at Camp John Hope in Fort Valley, and everyone was welcomed.

On-the-job training

Described by the U.S. Department of Energy as one of the nation's highest-paid professions that doesn't demand postsecondary education, becoming a journeyman lineworker typically requires a high school diploma or equivalent, training and a paid apprenticeship, which typically spans four years.

Apprentice lineworkers receive hands-on training and experience in the field before advancing to journeyman status. Lineworker salaries range from \$40,000 to \$144,000, depending on location, skill set and experience.

Inspiring safety

Each year, roughly 60,000 lineworkers respond to devastating storms and the damage they leave behind. In addition to extreme weather exposure, lineworkers face a variety of dangers. Safety is always the No. 1 priority, which is why apprenticeship programs were created and why lineworkers continuously receive training on the latest equipment and procedures.

Lineworkers power our lives. The next time you see one, remember to thank them for the essential work they do.

When Storms Roll In:

How We're Prepared and How You Can Be, Too

Summer brings warmer days, but it can also bring strong storms, heavy rain and high winds that may impact electric service. At Tri-State EMC, keeping the lights on and restoring power safely and quickly is always a top priority. While we work behind the scenes to prepare, there are also steps you can take to stay safe and ready.

Before an Outage: Be Prepared

A little preparation goes a long way when severe weather is in the forecast:

- Create an emergency kit with flashlights, batteries, bottled water and nonperishable food.
- Keep mobile devices charged and consider a portable power bank.
- Make sure your contact information is up to date so you receive outage alerts and updates.

During an Outage: Stay Safe

If the power goes out, safety should always come first:

- Avoid downed power lines; always assume they are energized and dangerous.
- Use flashlights instead of candles to reduce fire risk.
- Keep refrigerator and freezer doors closed as much as possible to preserve food.
- Never attempt to restore power yourself or approach electrical equipment.

Generator Safety Matters

Generators can be helpful during outages, but only when used correctly:

- Never operate generators indoors or in enclosed spaces like garages.
- Keep generators at least 20 feet away from doors and windows.



- Never plug a generator directly into a wall, as this can cause dangerous backfeed and put lineworkers at risk.
- Always follow manufacturer instructions.

How Your Cooperative Prepares

While storms may be unpredictable, preparation is not:

- Tri-State EMC will monitor weather conditions closely and our crews are ready to respond.
- Equipment and vehicles are inspected and staged ahead of major storms.
- Emergency restoration plans are in place.

We're in This Together

Storms may cause temporary disruptions, but our commitment to our members never wavers. By working together and staying informed, prepared and safe, we can weather any storm that comes our way.

For outage updates, safety tips and important announcements, stay connected with us on social media, monitor your email and contact us at (706) 492-3251.

To ensure you receive important communications, please verify that we have your correct phone number by checking your member portal online or by calling our office.

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.