

Co-ops: Focused on Service, Not Profits



MESSAGE FROM GENERAL MANAGER CLINT GARDNER

NOW, AS ALWAYS, IT'S A GOOD TIME TO BE A MEMBER OF AN ELECTRIC cooperative.

Not only are co-ops locally owned and controlled—by you, the members—they are locally run to serve your needs.

While many Texas electricity customers pay their power bills to companies that answer to faraway stockholders who demand a healthy profit every quarter, local members call the shots for electric cooperatives.

Co-ops aren't under pressure to keep rates high enough to generate big dividends for investors. Instead, we keep rates as low as we can while providing high-quality service.

Coleman County Electric Cooperative invests money earned in excess of operating costs back into the co-op and eventually returns the excess, known as margins, to members in the form of capital credits.

And unlike the boards of investor-owned utilities who must consider Wall Street profit pressures, your co-op's directors, who are fellow members, have only one thing in mind: keeping the lights on

while keeping costs down. That is what's so great about co-ops. If you don't like the direction your co-op is taking, you have the power to change its leadership through democratic means.

You may know the history of the electric cooperative movement, how eight decades ago, rural citizens banded together to bring the conveniences of electricity to their communities when investor-owned utilities would not extend service. The associations they formed, on the same democratic principles as this great nation, are as strong and relevant today as they were then.

Co-op leadership shares the concerns that you, the members, have. You can stop by, give us a call or send us an email and be assured that someone here is listening.

As locally owned and operated businesses, electric co-ops have a firsthand understanding of the people they serve. Cooperative management and employees share the same values and have the same community pride as you because it is our community, too. We act like neighbors because we are neighbors.

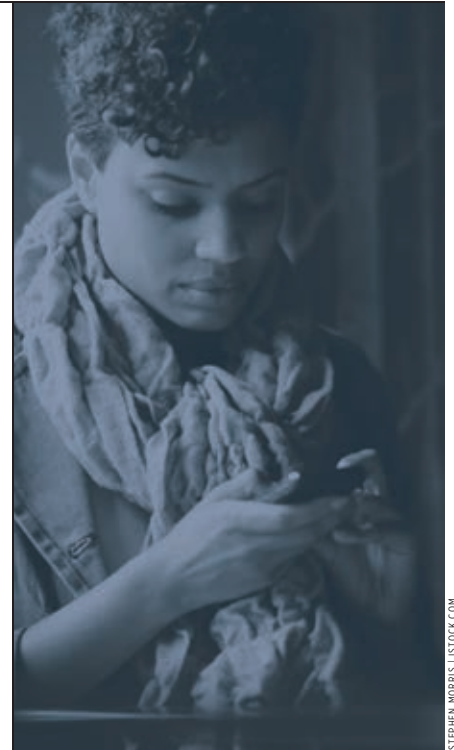
And that's the cooperative difference.

COOPERATIVE PRINCIPLE

VOLUNTARY AND OPEN MEMBERSHIP

Cooperatives are voluntary organizations open to all persons able to use their services and willing to accept the responsibilities of membership, without gender, social, racial, political or religious discrimination.

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When the Lights Go Out, We Go to Work

THE SNOW, ICE AND BLUSTERY WINDS of this season combine to make winter one of the busiest and most treacherous times of year for your electric cooperative.

The weight of ice-laden lines can snap poles. And the mighty winds of a blue norther can tax even the best-maintained systems, downing poles and lines.

Getting the lights back on quickly—and safely—is our No. 1 goal.

If your lights go out, check your fuses and breakers first. If no solution is found there, call the co-op to let us know. Our crews will be on the line straightaway to find and repair the problem.

Don't forget to stay well clear if the problem is a downed line. Even though the line may appear dead, it is still extremely dangerous. Never touch or try to move a downed power line. Call the co-op immediately, and our crews will handle the situation safely and as quickly as possible.

If your lights do go out, you can rest assured that your cooperative lineworkers—well-trained and ready—will respond without delay.



Students: Apply Now!

Youth Tour application deadline is February 6

APPLY NOW FOR THE GOVERNMENT-IN-ACTION YOUTH TOUR, AN ALL-EXPENSES-PAID trip to Washington, D.C., June 12–21, sponsored by Coleman County Electric Cooperative and organized by Texas Electric Cooperatives. February 6 is the deadline to enter for a chance at this trip of a lifetime.

Youth Tour is an action-packed trip to Austin and the U.S. capital with more than 150 of your peers and chaperones from across Texas. You'll visit Washington National Cathedral, Arlington National Cemetery, Mount Vernon, Smithsonian Institution, memorials and more. Activities include learning about rural electrification, seeing a performance at the Kennedy Center, dancing and eating on a dinner cruise, and meeting elected officials.

You could be part of a legacy shared by more than 3,800 Texas Youth Tour alumni who have participated since 1965. The application process includes an interview conducted by Coleman County EC.

Eligible entrants must:

- ▶ Be in 10th, 11th or 12th grade.
- ▶ Be a dependent of a CCEC member with permanent resident status in the cop's service area.
- ▶ Complete an interview that covers topics in a provided study guide.

Applications must arrive at CCEC by February 6. They can be delivered in person, mailed or submitted by email.

For more information about Youth Tour, visit texasyouthtour.com or contact CoriAnn Carrillo at coriann@colemanelectric.org or (325) 625-2128.



Coleman County Electric Cooperative

3300 N. Highway 84 • P.O. Box 860
Coleman, TX 76834

Operating in Brown, Callahan, Coke, Coleman, Concho, Runnels, Taylor and Tom Green counties

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Clint Gardner

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Contact Us

CALL US AT

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1-800-560-2128 toll-free

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colemanelectric.org

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Find Schlitterbahn info at schlitterbahn.com.

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Happy Valentine's Day
February 14