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WESTERN COOPERATIVE ELECTRIC NEWS

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Western Sends Local Youth to Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp

DEAN MASTERS, Natoma, and **SCOTT RING**, Ellis, joined more than 100 youth from across Kansas, Colorado, Oklahoma, and Wyoming for the Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp, July 11-17, near Steamboat Springs, CO. Electric cooperatives from all four states sponsor the trip for high school students.

ISAIAH FABRIZIUS, one of Western's 2014 contest winners, also attended the 2015 camp as a junior counselor.

"Western is proud to support the Youth Tour program," said Darrin Lynch, Western's General Manager. "On behalf of the Western member-owners and the employees, we appreciate the talented youth that represent Western and rural Kansas, in general. We are proud sponsors of opportunities for our youth to develop essential leadership and teamwork skills. I honestly cannot think of any more important investment than that which focuses on future generations of leaders."

During their week-long stay in Colorado, the students created their own candy cooperative, complete with a board of trustees and general manager selected by the students.

"I have a better understanding of how an electric cooperative works," Ring said.

The campers also took part in legislative presentations, a high voltage



From left: Dean Masters, Isaiah Fabrizius, and Scott Ring enjoy the Rockies during the Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp in July.

display, a competition to build a transmission line from craft supplies, and a special presentation on avian bird protection. They explored Steamboat Springs, toured the Craig Power Plant and Trapper Mine, and took a white water rafting trip down the Colorado River.

"Touring the power plant and coal mine really made me realize how much work goes into creating electricity," Masters said.

Ring and Masters were selected from a group of high school applicants during their junior year. To win this trip, students were asked to write a one-page essay, take a quiz, and ap-

pear before a group of judges for an interview.

"Our local students gained awareness of how electric cooperatives function and how important it is for them to be involved in their communities," Lynch said. "Our challenge going forward is to encourage these future leaders to imagine a bright, promising future for themselves in rural Kansas to ensure the future vitality of Kansas as an agricultural leader and provider for the country, and for the world."

For more information, contact Western Cooperative Electric at 785-743-5561 or 800-456-6720 or visit our website at www.westerncoop.com.

Hunting Electrical Equipment is Never in Season

As fall approaches along with various Kansas hunting seasons, please remember that electrical insulators, conductors, and electrical equipment are NOT on the Kansas hunting season list.

Western Cooperative Electric encourages hunters to be aware of electrical equipment while enjoying the great outdoors this season. Repairs can be costly in both equipment and outages to our members. Consider this recent scenario:

In July, an electrical outage south of Ellis was reported to Western. A crew was dispatched immediately to the area while additional calls about the outage were recorded and shared with the crew to help find the probable trouble location.

After a brief inspection of the area, Western's linemen discovered one of three conductors on a pole had been severed and was lying on the ground. Before the oil circuit recloser had time to interrupt the flow of electricity and de-energize the line, which is what normally happens to prevent outages, a fire had started. Fortunately, the fire self-extinguished in a short time, but the damage was done. As crews

worked to fix the damage and restore power, they discovered the initial separation of the conductor appeared to be from the discharge of a firearm.



Even though the electrical outage was restored within an hour, it resulted in considerable expense to both Western and our members, especially members with oil services served by that section of line. In addition to being without power, the oil services required primary line fuse replacements or a reset of the disconnect box, which created a financial losses for the oil companies and a substantial expense to Western and all of our members.

Western recognizes the majority of hunters practice safe hunting and understand the potential risks when discharging a firearm. We encourage experienced hunters who are familiar with the area to identify the locations of utility properties and equipment to young or new hunters in their group and remind them to avoid shooting toward these facilities. Enjoy the great outdoors. Just be sure to hunt only what's in season.

An Evening with the Members & Their Electricity Bill

Mr. and Mrs. Member arrived home last night from a long day at work. While Mr. Member retrieved the mail from their box at the end of the drive, the yard light (60 kilowatt-hours [kWh]/month) was just coming on.

Upon arrival at the back door, Mr. Member carried in the groceries from the car while Mrs. Member turned on lights (30 kWh/month) and adjusted the thermostat for the air conditioner (800 kWh/month). When entering the kitchen, she noticed that Mr. Member left the coffee pot (18 kWh/month) on before leaving the house for the morning commute to work.

She then went to the electric oven (100 kWh/month) and set it to preheat while Mr. Member put the groceries in the refrigerator (200 kWh/month) and the chest freezer (150 kWh/month).

As Mr. Member took a shower, Mrs. Member tossed a load of clothes in the washing machine (30 kWh/month) next to the dryer (125 kWh/month). Just then the water well (60 kWh/month) kicked on, as well as the electric water heater (550 kWh/month).

Upon finishing his shower, Mr. Member went to the living room, turning on a lamp (7 kWh/month) to watch the evening news on TV (27 kWh/month) before having the evening meal. In the kitchen, Mrs. Member heated vegetables in the microwave (20 kWh/month) while turning on another TV (27 kWh/month).

After supper, the dishes were stacked into the dish washer (30 kWh/month) and Mr. Member connected his cell phone to the charger (5 kWh/month) before logging on to the family computer (60 kWh/month).

While checking e-mails, Mr. Member received notice from Western Cooperative Electric greeting him to view his current electric bill.

"Would you look at this?" proclaiming to Mrs. Member. "Just look at the amount of this bill. We couldn't have used this much electricity, since we are not at home all day."

"There must be something wrong with our electric meter," Mrs. Member said. "I think I will give them a call and get an explanation."

Mrs. Member concludes the long day with a hot shower, followed by

using her dryer (8 kWh/month).

The Members are now comfortably resting, while electrical appliances are quietly working, to be ready for another day, offering comfort, pleasure, convenience, and quality of life at an affordable price.

NOTE: The characters in this story are fictitious, however the consumptions, and work produced for their household are not. Their usage will vary from household to household, but are average figures.

"We couldn't have used this much electricity, since we are not at home all day."

"There must be something wrong with our electric meter! I will give Western a call."

