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.
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 coop’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 corianna@colemanelectric.org or (325) 625-2128.