

What's Happening

September 4
Labor Day
- REC Offices Closed

September 23
First Day of Autumn

September is
National
Preparedness
Month

September 29
National Coffee Day



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Rock Energy Youth Stand Out At 2023 YLC

The 60th Annual Youth Leadership Conference (YLC) took place in July at UW-Stout, with 73 young people in attendance representing 15 Wisconsin electric cooperatives. During the three-day event, attendees learned about electric cooperatives and the 7 Cooperative Principles, as well as leadership skills and networking, all in a campus setting. The 2023-2024 Youth Board was also elected. Of the seven youth elected, two were Rock Energy Cooperative members—Thomas Peters and Jayden Mosley.

Those elected to the Youth Board serve in a leadership position working to engage more young people with electric cooperatives, they lead the planning of the 2024 Youth Leadership Conference, and they have the option to attend the 2024 Washington, D.C. Youth Tour.



ABOVE: Congratulations to the 2023-24 Youth Board! These seven students were elected by their peers at the 2023 Youth Leadership Conference. Carson Welter, **Thomas Peters (Rock Energy)**, Mya Petersen, Helen Clements, **Jayden Mosley (Rock Energy)**, Ryther Gehrke, and Johnah Vircks (alternate).

BELOW: The participants at the 2023 YLC event represented 15 different cooperatives throughout Wisconsin. This year's event took place at UW-Stout in Menomonie, WI.



1 BE IN THE KNOW

It's easy to slip up when you haven't taken the time to read up. Always read your owner's manual before operating your generator.



PORTABLE GENERATORS

5 Safety Tips

2 TAKE IT OUTSIDE

Keep those smelly fumes at bay. Use your generator outside with the exhaust directed away from openings to your home or nearby buildings. Make sure your generator is at least 20 feet from any occupied building.



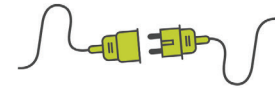
3 NO HARM DONE

When it comes to portable generators, it might seem simple to plug in your generator and let it run, but it's best to leave it to the professionals. Hire an electrician to install a transfer switch to wire your portable generator power to your household circuits. This helps avoid creating back-feed to power lines, which can injure neighbors or utility workers.



4 KEEP IT DRY

Be kind to your generator. Keep it dry and avoid exposure to weather. Do not operate a portable generator in the rain or in standing water. Weather conditions can also damage exposed areas, especially electrical, and may cause the unit to be inoperable.



5 GIVE IT A BREAK

Sometimes, even generators need a break. Avoid overloading your generator by following the manufacturer's directions for load capacity. Overloading can seriously damage your valuable appliances and electronics.

NOTE: If you're planning to **INSTALL** a generator, make sure to notify the co-op about the installation. Visit www.rock.coop/home-backup-generators for more information about generator installation.

Happy Labor Day

REC OFFICES CLOSED LABOR DAY

Rock Energy offices will be closed and REC personnel will be out on Monday, September 4 in observance of Labor Day. Members can make payments in the drop boxes at both offices during the holiday and at the payment kiosk outside our South Beloit office, 15229 Willowbrook Road. The offices will be back open on Tuesday, September 5, at 7:30 a.m. Even though our offices are closed, standby crews are available. If you need to report a power outage or a natural gas incident, please call 866-752-4550.

Youth Member Chosen To Represent Wisconsin At NRECA Power Xchange

Rock Energy youth member, Emma Steinke was recently chosen to serve as the Wisconsin State Representative at NRECA's Power Xchange, which will take place in San Antonio, TX, in March 2024. Emma will be a junior this fall at Milton High School and says she hopes to someday work for an electrical cooperative with a focus on renewable or sustainable energy.



Emma Steinke (front) is pictured here with two of her fellow tour participants (behind) on the 2023 Washington D.C. Youth Tour.

It has been a busy summer for Emma, as she participated in the Washington, D.C. Youth Tour in June and in the Youth Leadership Conference in July, representing Rock Energy Cooperative at both events. Emma has also participated on the Youth Co-op Board (as a board member alternate) for the past year.