



2024 Washington D.C. Youth Tour



See story and pictures on page 16.

Rock Energy Youth Members Attend Washington D.C. Tour

Thomas Peters and Jayden Mosley, both Beloit Turner High School students, recently represented Rock Energy on the 2024 NRECA Electric Cooperative Youth Tour to Washington, D.C. They gathered with students from co-ops across the nation June 15-23 as they met with congressional representatives, toured historic sites, and learned about the cooperative business model.

One of the highlights of the trip came on Thursday, June 20, when they traveled to the White House and met with legislative staff and legislators, including Senator Tammy Baldwin (D-Wisconsin).

They wrapped up the event on Friday, June 21, with a trip to the Lincoln Memorial, Holocaust Museum, and Arlington Cemetery for a wreath-laying ceremony. They ended the day with a dinner and dance boat cruise along with youth reps from Colorado, Michigan, New Mexico, Washington and Wyoming.

The all-expenses paid trip includes transportation, lodging, meals, and admission fees to all events. *NOTE: Youth tour participants must be children of a Rock Energy member and reside in the co-op's service territory.*

For more details about the Youth Tour, go to www.rock.coop, navigate to the Community & Youth tab, and click on Youth Tour.



Pictured above are Rock Energy youth members Jayden Mosley, left, and Thomas Peters outside of the Capital building in Washington D.C.



Pictured above, Wisconsin youth co-op members visit the Jefferson Memorial in Washington D.C.



Pictured above, Wisconsin youth co-op members meet with legislative staff and legislators, including Senator Tammy Baldwin (D-Wisconsin) (wearing purple sweater), at the White House during the 2024 Youth Tour.

BE AWARE OF UTILITY SCAMS

Utility scams happen any time of year, but will typically pop up during extreme cold or heat events when many people are more likely to need their heat or air conditioning. Scammers may impersonate water, electric, and gas company representatives, threatening residents and business owners with deactivation of service if they don't pay up immediately.

These cons may also involve promises of energy discounts with the intent of taking money, personal information, or possibly the account details needed to switch the resident to another utility provider without consent.

How Scams Work

Utility company impostors will typically contact customers with a phone call, text, or knock on the door, claiming to be a representative from the local water, electric, or gas company. In the most common scenario, they will claim payment is overdue and the utility will shut off within the hour if the bill is not paid immediately.

Never allow anyone into your home unless you have scheduled an appointment or reported a problem. It is rare that a legitimate utility company will show up unannounced and demand entry into your home. Also, ask utility employees for proper identification before letting them enter.



Tips To Spot Scams

Prepaid debit cards and wire transfers are a red flag. If a caller specifically asks for payment by prepaid debit card, gift card, a digital wallet app, or wire transfer, this is a huge warning sign. Legitimate utility companies will often accept a check or credit card. Utility scammers will press for immediate payment, typically within a short time frame under an hour, and may try high-pressure tactics to intimidate consumers into giving them personal and banking information.

Protect Yourself Against Scams

If you feel pressured for immediate action by an unknown caller, hang up the phone and call Rock Energy at 866-752-4550. If the scammer provided you with a utility bill, it could be fake, so be sure to go back to a previous, "real" utility bill and confirm that the phone number you will be calling is correct. This will ensure you are speaking to a real representative from Rock Energy. Never give your personal or banking information to an unverified or unsolicited caller.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR



ROCK ENERGY COOPERATIVE MEMBER APPRECIATION DAY

**Saturday, Oct. 19
8:30 to 10:30 a.m.**

Rock County Fairgrounds (Craig Center)
1301 Craig Ave. / Janesville, WI

*Pancake Breakfast, Bucket Truck Rides, Face
Painting, Animal Balloons, Games, Jump
House, and MUCH, MUCH More!*

Call 8-1-1 BEFORE You Dig

In observance of National Safe Digging Day on August 11, Rock Energy urges all members to call 8-1-1 before every digging project so underground utilities can be marked.

Digging without knowing the approximate location can result in service disruptions, costly repairs, serious injuries, and even death if gas, electric, communications, water, and sewer lines are damaged.

When you call 8-1-1, your call will be routed to your local One Call Center. That's Diggers Hotline in Wisconsin and JULIE (Joint Utility Locating Information for Excavators) in Illinois. Calling three days in advance is required.

They will ask for the location and description of your digging project. Utility companies servicing the area then will send a professional locator to the proposed area to mark any buried lines with flags. Wait until your official project start date before beginning to dig to make sure all the utilities have been marked.

For More Information:

NATIONWIDE: www.call811.com or call 8-1-1

WISCONSIN: www.diggershotline.com or call 800-242-8511

ILLINOIS (JULIE): www.illinois1call.com or call 800-892-0123

To learn more
about the
importance of
calling 8-1-1
before you dig,
scan the QR Code
to the right and
watch the REC
"Call 8-1-1" video.



HAPPY LABOR DAY



REC OFFICES CLOSED LABOR DAY

Rock Energy Cooperative offices will be closed on Monday, Sept. 2, in observance of Labor Day. We will reopen at 7:30 a.m., Tuesday, Sept. 3. Members can make payments in the drop boxes at both offices throughout the holiday weekend and at the payment kiosk outside of the South Beloit office, 15229 Willowbrook Rd. Even though our offices are closed, crews are always available 24 hours a day. If you need to report a power outage or natural gas leak, call 866-752-4550.

Shane Larson, CEO

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P.O. Box 126, 15229 Willowbrook Rd., South Beloit, IL 61080
866-752-4550

Jonas Berberich, Editor



**ROCK ENERGY
COOPERATIVE**
Empowering Members Since 1936