



A MESSAGE FROM:  
**Shane L. Larson,**  
Chief Executive Officer



# Supporting Our Youth Members

**J**ust like last year, and for many years before that, Rock Energy Cooperative, is very excited in 2025 to once again highlight the value of cooperative membership to young people who are our future members and our future leaders.

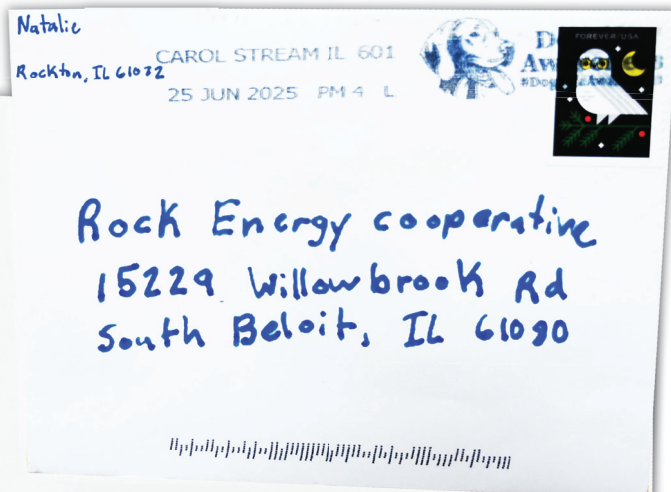
This year we again handed out scholarships of \$1,000 to graduating high school seniors who enroll at an accredited school. In 2025 we offered a total of 40 scholarships—25 scholarships to high school seniors and 15 second-year scholarships to college students. Students whose parents or guardians are active members of REC are eligible. Our scholarship committee judges applicants based on general merit, cooperation, leadership abilities, financial need, and class ranking.

Also, for our Illinois members, we promote the Thomas H. Moore Illinois Electric Cooperatives (IEC) Memorial Scholarship Program, which awards academic scholarships on an annual basis.

Pictured at right on this page, you will see one of the many thank you notes the co-op has received from one of our scholarship recipients. This particular one is from Natalie, who recently graduated from Hononegah High School. Natalie will be attending Iowa State in the fall. This is exactly why we give back to our youth members. I think the last line in her note says it all — "Thank you again for your confidence in my potential and for investing in my future." From everyone here at Rock Energy, good luck to you Natalie and thank you for the kind note.

We believe in the cooperative business model and we think it is important to educate and inform our next generation about this model. As such, we provide and sponsor other programs that benefit youth as well, such as the annual Youth Tour to Washington, D.C. (see pages 16-17) and the Youth Leadership Conference that helps young co-op members develop strong leadership and presentation skills and gain a broader understanding of energy cooperatives. The Youth Leadership Conference was held in July at UW-Stout in Menominee, WI. Funding for the Youth Tour, college scholarships, and other youth programs comes from the Federated Youth Foundation, which receives money from unclaimed capital credits and other contributions.

If you would like more information about our youth programs, visit our web site at [Rock.coop](http://Rock.coop) and click on the "Community & Youth" tab at the top.



Dear Rock Energy cooperative,

I am writing to express my sincere gratitude for being awarded your Scholarship this year. I was thrilled to learn of my selection for this honor and deeply appreciate your generous support.

This scholarship will significantly impact my academic journey by giving me the resources to cover part of my tuition at Iowa State. This will allow me to spend more of my energy on my course load which is amazing.

Thank you again for your confidence in my potential and for investing in my future.

Sincerely

Natalie

*We are honored to serve your energy needs and we look forward to hearing your suggestions this year and beyond. If we can do anything to improve our service, please let us know.*



# 2025 Washing

Pictured at right are the 2025 Washinton, D.C. Tour participants (Wisconsin) at the Capitol building.

**FRONT:** Kyra Meisenheimer (Adams-Columbia Electric Co-op), Anna Janowski (Jackson Electric Co-op)

**MIDDLE:** Lily Kasper (Polk-Burnett Electric Co-op), Addison Ellison (Barron Electric Co-op), Jada Horstmann (Barron Electric Co-op), Christine Pickard (Polk-Burnett Electric Co-op)

**BACK:** Amber Lund (Riverland Energy Co-op), Garrett Schneider (Rock Energy Co-op), Ashton Brusveen (Adams-Columbia Electric Co-op), Owen Klussendorf (Taylor Electric Co-op), Jarrett William Rueth (Clark Electric Co-op), Dillan John Sztuczko (Adams-Columbia Electric Co-op)

**NOT PICTURED:** Piper Blanch (Pierce Pepin Co-op)



Martin Luther King, Jr. National Memorial



Ronald Reagan Building & International Trade Center



# ton, D.C. Tour

**T**hirteen youth members from nine Wisconsin electric cooperatives went to Washington, D.C. June 15th through the 21st for the 2025 NRECA Youth Tour.

The group started off by visiting the National Cooperative Business Association, CLUSA International, the National Mall, the Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center, the National Archives, FBI Headquarters, and the U.S. Navy Memorial. They also participated in an energizing Co-ops 101 session.

They then toured the White House, and headed to the U.S. Capitol where they observed democracy in action from the gallery and witnessed a live Senate vote. They met with Senator Tammy Baldwin (D-Wisconsin) and staffers from Congressman Derrick Van Orden's (R-Prairie du Chien) office.

As they wrapped up the tour, the youth visited the Pentagon Memorial, the LEED-NC Gold-certified headquarters of the National Rural Cooperative Finance Corporation, and the Steven F. Udvar-Hazy Center, which features aircraft and space artifacts.



**ABOVE:** Wisconsin Senator Tammy Baldwin talks with the tour participants.

**RIGHT:** The students take a break with a view of the Washington Monument.

**TOP/RIGHT:** Rock Energy youth member Garrett Schneider stands outside of the U.S. Capitol building.

**MIDDLE/RIGHT:** Tour participants proudly pose in front of the Lincoln Memorial.



# Can You Dig It?



An underground utility line is **damaged once every few minutes** because someone didn't call 811.



Call 811, the "Call Before You Dig Number," at least **3 business days** prior to digging.



811 locators **do not detect** underground sprinkler systems, invisible fences, data communication systems, private water systems, or gas piping to a garage.



Even if you have previously had underground utilities marked, **utilities can shift**, so it's best to call before starting a new project.



Once **all of your utilities** have been located, then you can start your digging project!

Learn more at



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.

## FOR MORE INFORMATION:

**NATIONWIDE:** call [811.com](http://811.com) or call 8-1-1  
**"JULIE" (IL):** [illinois1call.com](http://illinois1call.com) or 800-892-0123  
**"DIGGERS HOTLINE" (WI):** [diggershotline.com](http://diggershotline.com)  
 or 800-242-8511

## If Your Power Goes Out, What Should You Do?

**C**heck your fuse box or circuit breaker. This will determine if the problem is on Rock Energy lines or with your own electrical system. It might be as simple as a blown fuse or tripped circuit. You will be charged a fee if crews are dispatched and the problem turns out to be your responsibility.

Look at the area outside your house near the meter. Rock Energy maintains the electrical lines leading to your house and the meter itself. But if the weatherhead (usually found on the roof with wires entering the home) or your meter socket (box) is damaged or pulled away from the building, contact an electrician. These items are considered part of the house and are the member's responsibility.

Rock Energy is notified of outages automatically through our metering system, but we encourage members to:

- Sign up for outage text alerts.
- Utilize our web site ([www.Rock.coop](http://www.Rock.coop)) to view the Outage Map (click on Outage button at the top).
- Use SmartHub to report an outage (preferred method) if there is an unusual situation that caused the outage (power lines down, there was a loud boom, etc).

You can call Rock Energy at 866-752-4550 to report the outage; however, calling is not recommended, because if the outage is widespread, the phone lines will be very busy.

When reporting an outage, please give your name and the address that is without power. It's also helpful to provide a cell phone number where you can be reached. Provide as much information as you can about the outage. What time did the power go out? Did the lights flicker. Did you hear a pop, or see any power lines down? Please DO NOT email us about an outage.

# LABOR DAY

## ROCK ENERGY OFFICES CLOSED FOR LABOR DAY

Rock Energy Cooperative offices will be closed on Monday, Sept. 1, in observance of Labor Day. We will reopen at 7:30 a.m., Tuesday, Sept. 2. Members can still make payments in the drop boxes at both offices throughout the holiday weekend. Even though our offices are closed, crews are always available 24 hours a day. If you need to report a power outage or a natural gas incident, please call 866-752-4550.

## Shane Larson, CEO

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 866-752-4550

## Jonas Berberich, Editor



**ROCK ENERGY**  
**COOPERATIVE**  
 Empowering Members Since 1936