

2023

D.C. YOUTH TOUR



Rock Energy Youth Represent Co-op In Washington D.C.

The Wisconsin Electric Cooperative Association (WECA) led a group of 12 total youth delegates on a tour of the nation's capital this June 14-18. Among the group of 12 were two Rock Energy delegates, Samantha Hopkins and Emma Steinke. The group, led by Youth Coordinator Tina Walden, represented a total of 10 Wisconsin electric cooperatives as they embarked on NRECA's Electric Cooperative Youth Tour. The Wisconsin group was up from the nine attendees who made the trip last year.

According to NRECA, the attendance is up nationally as well. More than 1,800 youth delegates and chaperons are attending at staggered times over the two-week period, which runs from June 13 to 23, up from 1,300 attendees last year. In 2019, before the pandemic hit, 2,000 young people made the trip. This year's attendees represent 44 states, up significantly from the 28 states that sent youth in 2022.

"We are still feeling the effects of the pandemic," said Beth Knudson, NRECA's youth programs and training manager. "Not having our in-person program in 2020 or 2021 put a dent in our applications simply because we don't have those recent attendees in our pipeline to promote the program at school. But we're getting there!"

The formal Youth Day program included presentations from Mat Kilgore, Iowa Lakes Electric Cooperative line foreman and NRECA International volunteer, and Mike Schlappi, a motivational speaker and wheelchair basketball player who has appeared in four consecutive summer Paralympic Games.

Pictured here are the 12 Wisconsin youth delegates on the Washington DC Youth Tour, which took place in June. Rock Energy delegates Samantha Hopkins (2nd row, middle) and Emma Steinke (front row, right) participated in the tour.

TREE TRIMMING IS CRITICAL WHEN IT COMES TO SAFETY

Rock Energy Cooperative (REC) dedicates a significant amount of time for tree trimming, because it's a priority for us. Tree trimmers traverse our 1,200 miles of line to remove tree branches and other vegetation growing too close to power lines in the right-of-way. REC's tree-trimming program focuses on two things: safety and reliability.

Most everyone can agree that trees are beautiful and an important part of our landscape. However, they can become deadly for kids playing in the neighborhood if the branches grow too close to power lines and become energized.

Trees also can be a power line's worst enemy. Strong winds, heavy snow and ice can cause trees and their branches to snap, pulling down power lines and causing outages.

Line maintenance though involves more than just tree trimming. A complete pole and line inspection of REC's northern system was completed recently, and REC has a schedule that calls for one-tenth of all equipment on our lines — poles, wires, transformers — to be inspected every year. If serious hazards are discovered, repairs are made immediately.

Working to minimize and prevent outages is a year-round effort. REC's crews work diligently to clear branches away from power lines, and we make sure our equipment is in top-notch shape. REC maintains proper engineering and an adequate inventory of parts, as well as continually train REC employees. Everything we do focuses on providing REC members with reliable electricity.

Pictured here and in the images on page 17, a crew trims trees along Roherty Road in Janesville to clear branches that away from power lines.



RIGHT-OF-WAYS
Our members and regulators expect us to provide safe, reliable service. To meet that expectation, we must properly maintain our right-of-ways. Our easements on properties along the power line route give us specific rights to maintain those right-of-ways and keep them clear of trees and brush.



WHERE WE TRIM
Rock Energy is responsible for trimming trees and vegetation contacting or having the potential to cause an outage on electric lines. Often, there are other utility lines, such as cable television or telephone lines, located below the electric lines on a pole. Rock Energy does not maintain those lines.



NOTIFICATION
Rock Energy makes every effort to notify customers through personal contact, letter, or by leaving a door hanger at the location prior to vegetation maintenance activities. In the case of restoring power due to a tree-related outage or when a potential safety hazard exists, time is critical and crews may prune or remove a tree before notifying the property owner.

Rock Energy Tree Trimming Video
Scan the QR code to watch Rock Energy's Tree Trimming video.

Rock Energy Gas Rate Adjustment

For the first time since 2018, natural gas base rates will be modified, effective with gas billings after August 15, 2023.

Due to increased inflationary costs, residential members will see their monthly facilities charge increase by \$3, with a slight decrease in their delivery charge per therm. For residential accounts, this equates to a 0.5% annual increase over the five-year period. For commercial/industrial accounts, rate modifications will equate to a 0.25% annual increase over the five-year period.

The cooperative remains cost competitive, while maintaining and upgrading the system to accommodate the needs of our current and future members. Please contact the office if you have any questions.

JOIN US!

MEMBER APPRECIATION DAY

Saturday, Aug. 5 / 8:30 to 10:30 a.m.

NEW LOCATION:

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

Pancake Breakfast, Bucket Truck Rides,
Face Painting, Jump House, & Much More!

REC OFFICES CLOSED SEPTEMBER 4

Rock Energy Cooperative offices will be closed on Monday, Sept. 4, in observance of Labor Day. We will reopen at 7:30 a.m., Tues., Sept. 5. Members can make payments in the drop boxes at both offices on Sept. 4. 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 incident, please call 866-752-4550.

Shane Larson, CEO

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866-752-4550

Jonas Berberich, Editor

If you feel a **SHOCK**,
swim **AWAY** from the **DOCK!**



Did you know?

Electricity can enter water from energized boats and docks.



If you are in the water and feel electric current:

1 **SHOUT** to let others know. 

2 **TUCK** your legs up to make yourself smaller.

3 Try to go out **AWAY** from anything that could be energized.



4 **Do NOT** head to boat or dock ladders to get out.



If you are on the dock or shore when a swimmer feels electrical current:

1 **Do NOT** jump in.

2 **Throw** them a float.



3 **Eliminate or turn off** the source of electricity as quickly as possible.



4 **Then call** for help. 

Source: SafeElectricity.org

 **ROCK ENERGY
COOPERATIVE**
Empowering Members Since 1936