

Focusing on the future through youth programs

For decades, electric cooperatives like Northeastern REMC have been investing in the children and teens in our local communities.

Fulfilling the cooperative commitment to community and education, we have taught area youth — who will someday be our leaders, members, directors, and civic leaders — about our country and the role of co-ops and electricity.

We send high school juniors to Washington, D.C., each summer to visit the nation's capital, learn about government, and experience American history. In addition, local seventh graders have the opportunity to have an authentic camp experience at Camp Tecumseh to learn more about electricity while meeting new people and even zip lining! There's also an art contest for young artists to gain statewide recognition for their talent.

This is just the beginning of the opportunities available for our young members. **Flip to the inside pages for a complete look at how your local cooperative is preparing today's youth for tomorrow's world.**



New year. Less mail.

Are you looking for a way to reduce your carbon footprint and the amount of mail you get? You can now sign up for paperless statements in just a few clicks.

Once enrolled, you will receive an email each month when your bill is due, and then you can view your bill online the same way you would view a paper bill. You will still need to follow the necessary steps to make a payment, but it's only a click away.

Sign up for paperless billing at nremc.com/paperless.



Apply by
March 1



June 11-18, 2023



YOUTH TOUR TO WASHINGTON, D.C.

Apply now at nremc.com/tour.

Indiana's 38 electric cooperatives are accepting applications from Indiana high school juniors for this year's Indiana Electric Cooperative Youth Tour to Washington, D.C. This program provides young Hoosiers the opportunity to visit the nation's capital, experience American history, learn more about government, and better understand their electric cooperative. Students will visit the Flight 93 Memorial, Gettysburg Battlefield, Arlington National Cemetery, National Museum of the Marine Corps, and Smithsonian museums. The delegation will also tour the National Mall memorials, take a night cruise on the Potomac River, and more.



June 7-10, 2023

Apply by
March 1



CAMP KILOWATT

Camp Tecumseh in Brookston, Indiana

Apply now at nremc.com/camp.

Camp Kilowatt is a fun and unique camp experience for sixth grade students going into seventh grade across Indiana. In 2023, camp takes place June 7-10 at Camp Tecumseh in Brookston, Indiana. Kids get the chance to learn more about energy while making new friends and enjoying fun activities and games. This dynamic three-day camp includes the following activities:

- Electricity education
- Horseback riding
- Bucket truck rides
- Rock climbing
- Archery
- Alternative-energy education
- Internet safety
- Zip lining
- Live-line safety demonstration
- Swimming, and much, much more





WINDY, ICY WINTER STORMS AND

GALLOPING LINES

It's winter in Indiana. That means storms with wind, snow, and ice. When high winds and ice combine, it can affect power lines in a unique way causing them to "gallop."

When ice accumulates on power lines, it forms a teardrop shape. If there are strong winds, the ice that builds up is only on one side of the power line, taking on the shape of an aerodynamic airplane wing, which results in the line lifting. This is known as "galloping."

When this excessive buildup occurs, it changes the flow of air around the line, which causes it to start the galloping movement. Galloping can damage the lines, cause power outages, and even cause cross-arms to break, bringing lines to the ground. When galloping causes the lines to touch, you might see a small flash, or the lights in your home might blink.

Once galloping starts, there isn't much that can be done to alleviate the issue until the winds stop.

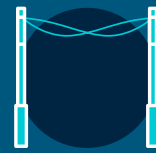
If you encounter power lines swaying or galloping dangerously,

warn others to stay away, and contact Northeastern REMC as soon as possible. Remember, snow can hide dangerous, downed lines, especially if the lines are sagging and the cross arms are broken.

It is important to keep your distance from these downed power lines no matter the season. When you see a power line out of place, never touch it; never approach it. The result could be deadly! The best course of action is to steer clear and call 911.



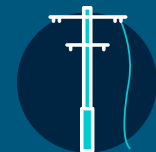
For more electrical safety tips, go to
nremc.com/blog.



IF YOU SEE GALLOPING POWER LINES:

Keep your distance — ice can break off, or power lines can break loose.

Contact NREMC to let us know of the potential damage as soon as possible.



IF YOU SEE A DOWNED LINE:

Stay far away and warn others to stay away.

Remember, a downed line can remain energized even if it is not sparking or arcing.

Always report the location of a downed power line and damaged electrical equipment to your electric cooperative.



What's the difference between the types of utility companies?

There are three types of utility companies across the United States. You, as a member of Northeastern REMC, are part of an **electric cooperative**. One of the best things about being a co-op member is that you are not simply a customer but rather a member-owner. Your financial contribution (paying the bill) keeps your lights on but also helps run the co-op that powers more than 30,000 people in this community. A portion of that financial contribution is returned to you each year in the form of capital credits, which you saw on your December bill. You can learn about the many other perks of being part of an electric cooperative as we share them throughout the year. Below are the main differences between the types of electric companies.



electric cooperatives

- Democratically controlled by its members
- Owned by members who live in service area
- Not for profit

Example: Northeastern REMC



investor-owned utilities

- Owned by stockholders
- Stockholders may/may not live in service area
- For profit

Example: Indiana Michigan Power



municipal utilities

- Community owned
- Runs as a division of government
- Not for profit

Example: Columbia City Utilities

Co-op calendar of student art contest

Calling all kindergarten through high school students! This is your opportunity to have your artwork featured in a printed calendar circulated to thousands of people in Indiana! Plus, you can win \$200. Honorable mention receives \$75.

Each month is assigned to a certain grade. The list of months and full details can be found at nremc.com/artcontest.

Apply by
March 24



Stay alert so our crews stay safe

If you see an NREMC truck, warning signs, or flaggers, be sure you're slowing down and keeping a safe distance away from all people, trucks, and equipment. Being alert while driving is essential, especially when roadways may be hazardous because of snow and ice.

Create an online account to easily manage your account

Did you know you can manage your account online? You can view your usage, your bill, and so much more by creating an online account. Go to nremc.com, click on "account log-in," and follow the steps to create an account. You can also download the SmartHub app for your Apple or Android device.

Contact Us

memberservices@nremc.com

888-413-6111
nremc.com

Call 811 before you dig!



STAY IN THE CAR

Don't turn a minor accident with a utility pole into a life-threatening situation

Ice, snow, and sleet can make slippery road conditions for even the most experienced drivers. Tens of thousands of accidents occur each year when power poles are struck by vehicles or large equipment. Each of these accidents has the potential to bring down power lines. Knowing what to do is vital if this happens to you or if you witness a car accident involving a pole.

It may be a driver's first inclination to get out and check the car for damage, but stepping out of the vehicle could be dangerous for the driver and anyone else involved or nearby. It's essential to stay in the car. When a car hits a pole, power lines can fall by breaking loose from their hardware on impact. These lines could remain energized and will be carrying 7,200 volts of electricity. Electricity seeks the quickest path to the ground. You become that path if you get out of the car and touch a live power line and the ground. That amount of electricity passing through you can kill you instantly.

"When a power line is involved, even a minor accident can become tragic," said Jared Boggs, safety coordinator at

"It cannot be stressed enough that staying inside the vehicle, and warning passersby to stay away, too, is the safest route."



Jared Boggs
Safety Coordinator

Northeastern REMC. "It cannot be stressed enough that staying inside the vehicle, and warning passersby to stay away, too, is the safest route. Only after a first responder arrives on scene and they've confirmed with the power company that the lines are de-energized should you get out."

Stay in the car even if you do not see fallen power lines. These lines can be hard to see, especially in tall grass or at night. If the power lines are on your car, the rubber on your tires is helping you stay safe, much like a rubber glove keeps our line workers safe. Call 911 immediately, and wait until the first responders can confirm that the lines have been de-energized. Only then is it safe for you and your passengers to exit the vehicle.

If you must exit the vehicle because it is on fire, jump clear of it with your feet together and without touching the vehicle and ground at the same time. Then, keeping your feet together, shuffle or "bunny hop" to safety.

Do you have a teenage driver at home?

Be sure to share this safety information with them too!



In this issue:



Plus ...

- Focusing on the future through youth programs (Cover story)
- What's the difference between the types of utility companies? (Page 4)
- When wind and ice combine, lines can "gallop." What does this mean? (Page 3)

... and more!



LIGHTPOST

January/February 2023

NORTHEASTERN REMC
A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative



888-413-6111 **nremc.com**